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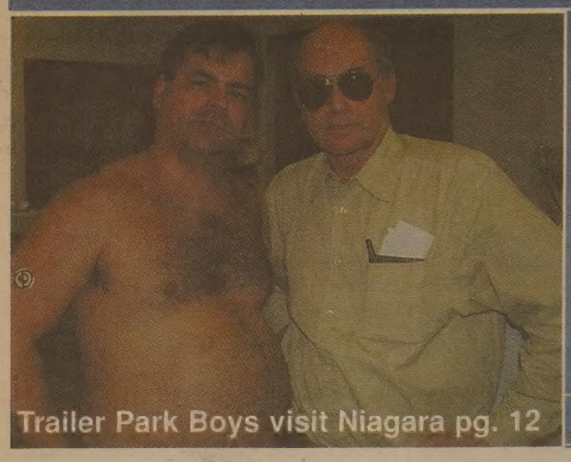

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The Best Way To Connect With Niagara

NC expands to Peru

By AMANDA STREET
Staff Writer

Tourism is booming in Peru.

Niagara College has designed the Entry Points for Tourism Work project in Arequipa, Peru's second largest city.

The college is contributing through training modules aimed at preparing disadvantaged people for entry-level hospitality and tourism positions.

The modules prepare people for jobs in the kitchen, the bar, and the restaurants of local hotels. The first module began in mid-November. It was a five-week course that taught skills necessary for work as an assistant cook, bar worker and server.

Through research done before the modules were designed, it was found that employers want employees with multiple skills, so the courses cater to different areas.

There were 36 participants, mainly young women. A major aspect of the project is to achieve gender equality. Males can participate in the projects, but the participants have been mainly women.

Peru is a heavily impoverished country with a poverty rate of 54 per cent. Canada has a rate of 6.8 per cent. There is an unequal distribution of wealth in the country. Paucarpata is a poor neighbourhood in Arequipa where the project is taking place.

The disadvantaged people are citizens who for some reason have been unable to further their education or find employment.

"The people that we are working with are very grateful and very eager to learn…The biggest problem I have noticed here is that the government does not fund education enough," says Dan McKenzie, a young professional in Peru.

McKenzie has been in Peru since Aug. 25 and will stay for seven months. Niagara College covers his airfare and pays for his insurance. He says he gets paid enough to cover expenses but not enough for him to save.

"Many factors contribute to poverty but there are many people working to remedy the situation. We [the college] are some of them," says Mary Kilmer, an international projects co-ordinator in the International Education Development Department (IEDD) at the college.

"Our part is to contribute to the reduction, but it is going to take an enormous effort to reduce [the nation's poverty] on a wide scale."

Kilmer went to Peru in April with Kyla Pennie, another international project co-ordinator. They went to gain an understanding of who would be participating in the programs and if there was any interest.

Kilmer says they found people to be very "keen" about joining the program, and they did not want to wait until November for the programs to begin. Because of the interest, they designed workshops that would prepare the people for the program and give them basic skills.

The first workshop explored tourism options. The second was "I Know Arequipa," based on the "I Know Niagara" module used at the Maid of the Mist campus. The third focused on service excellence as employers want to hire someone with excellent customer service skills. This workshop was designed to provide participants with the skills they need to succeed in the tourism industy.

Continued on page 2

Staying warm by the BBQ

Glen Murray, the Student Administrative Council's (SAC) office administrator at Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, flipped burgers for the students lined up across the courtyard on SAC's Bahamas barbeque day. For full report see page 3. **Photo by Lesley Kerr**

Former vice-president of Academic and Learning Services Alan Davis receives a raincoat jacket as a going-away gift from the college's staff and faculty members on Wednesday, Jan. 25 during his farewell celebration.
Photo by Patricia Rodriguez

Davis will be missed by staff, faculty

By PATRICIA RODRIGUEZ
Staff Writer

Departures are difficult, and they become more so when letting go of close, strong influential leaders.

On Jan. 27, after a 2 1/2-year term, Niagara College held a send-off to Vancouver for Vice-President of Academic and Learner Services Alan Davis.

Davis has accepted a senior vice-president position at Vancouver Community College in British Columbia.

"I'm sorry to be going. I have loved my time at Niagara College, especially working with my deans and directors, the faculty staff, and, of course, the students," said Davis.

His family is staying behind "at least" until Davis's son finishes high school in 2009, he added.

"I'll be back regularly and every holiday, so, as you can see, a good piece of my heart is staying put," he explained.

"Davis is a highly respected vice-president who we will miss at Niagara College. He is passionate about quality and has instituted a quality review process for all of our programs which stands as a model for quality assurance," said Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

Among his achievements during his tenure here were the restructuring of the academic division and the development and implementation of several college practices as well as program review processes.

"[His accomplishments] have vastly improved our effectiveness," added Patterson.

Last October Davis also formed the first monthly issue of *A & L S News*. The newsletter is intended to keep college staff informed of academic-related discussions happening at the college, to seek input on this issues, to identify timelines, to provide easy access to related documentation, to celebrate academic achievement by students, faculty and staff and to provide a forum for comment.

Davis is looking to the future.

"The opportunity at Vancouver Community College as vice-president of education is huge for me professionally. It is a big urban college, and [it's] B.C.'s biggest, oldest and number 1 college," explained Davis.

Vancouver Community College, formerly known as Vancouver City College, was established in 1965 after bringing together Vancouver Vocational Institute, Vancouver School of Art, Vancouver School Board's Night School Program, and King Edward Senior Matriculation and Continuing Education Centre.

"At VCC, I'll be the senior vice-president, which is an important reflection of the college's values and priorities. I'm hoping to learn a lot and to be challenged in new ways as an academic leader."

Prior to departure, on Jan. 25, about 50 staff and faculty members rallied at Davis's farewell celebration. The two-hour gathering took place in the Board of Governors' Meeting Room at the Welland campus at 3 p.m.

Continued on page 2

College teaching Peru sustainable skills

Continued from page 1

"The module was a success from start to finish and gave us a lot of confidence and incentive to plan others," says McKenzie.

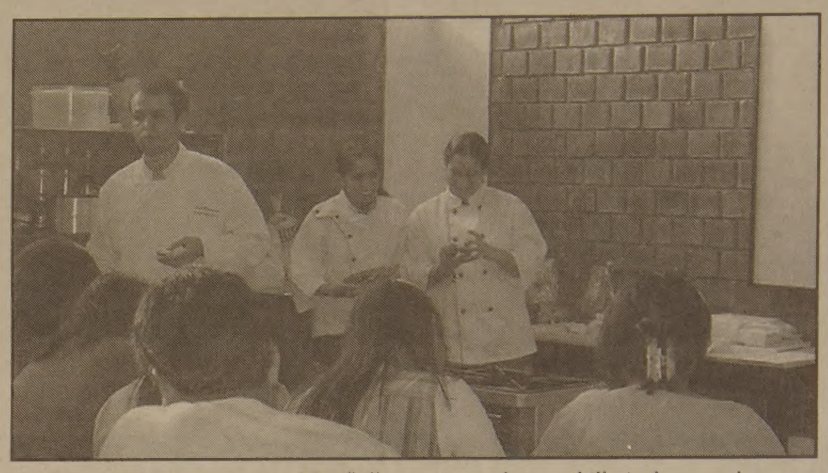
The second module of the project began on Jan. 16. It's a six-day course on getting and keeping a job. The people participating in the project lack the skills many of us take for granted. Most have never seen a resumé before or know how to put one together. This course will teach them to design their own resumé, and skills they need for the interview process.

McKenzie was involved in the planning of the second module which gave him a chance to expand his involvement.

"These skills make them appeal as prospective employees," says Kilmer, adding their goal is to help participants become "employable."

Although still in its early stages, the project has been successful says Kilmer. "We've learned a lot about what it takes and how fundamental a solid partnership is."

The partners include Instituto del Sur, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and the Association of Canadian Colleges (ACCC).



Participants in the sustainable skills program learn skills in bar and restaurant help in Arequipa, Peru.

Submitted photo

Insituto del Sur helps in marketing the program to locals. It makes citizens aware of dates and times as well as where and how to register.

CIDA is the main source of funding for this project and most of the others IEDD participates in. ACCC supervises and administers the project.

"I definitely see positive outcomes from my work here, and that is the best part of my job," says McKenzie.

Kilmer has been working in IEDD for four years. Prior to that she taught English and Spanish at the college.

She came to IEDD because she wanted to help people help themselves.

"I want to see people succeed, especially people who have to overcome major obstacles like poverty and inequality."

Student finds co-op placement helpful

By JAYLENE POIRIER
Staff Writer

Bernie's Bar & Grill was home to student Maher "Mo" Fares on his four-month, 400-hour co-op term.

Fares, 20, of London, Ont., is in the Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

As one of the requirements of the two-year program, students must have a field placement.

To get the students started in first term, they take the Career Planning and Development course, which leads them in the right direction for a co-op placement.

"This course is designed to provide students with the skills and knowledge necessary to affect a realistic, informed and successful transition from school to the workplace. Market conditions, occupational clusters and opportunities within the student's field will be examined," explains the Niagara College website.

Fares says that "this course, along with other sources, offers lots of opportunities, and helps students find any kind of placement they want, anywhere in Canada. I chose mine in London, Ont., because that's my hometown. It's good to be at home, and I wanted to be closer to my family."

Fares's placement at Bernie's Bar & Grill gives him "front of the house duties."

It includes hosting, financial duties, such as managing the cheque book, and kitchen work, as well as the overall business aspect of running/working in a restaurant. Manager Fred Deep took him through the duties.

There are already two Bernie's Bar & Grills in London, and the owners are hoping to expand.

Fares, who received an hourly wage of $9.50, had great reviews from Deep, who also says that he "would be happy to have Mo back anytime for a full-time placement."

For information on how to find a co-op placement, contact the Job Centre – Services for Co-op Students at jobcentre@niagarac.on.ca.

College appealing to Ontario secondary school students through new promotional video

By MICHAEL McCLYMONT
Staff Writer

Welcome to Niagara College.

Our college, voted number 1 in student satisfaction, is attempting to appeal to an even younger audience.

With the help and vision of David J. Mole and his Outside The In Communications company in St. Catharines, Randy Conlon and the college's student recruitment team, Judy Willems and the Niagara College Marketing Department all contributed to the creation of a promotional video of Niagara College.

Conlon is the college's co-ordinator of student recruitment, and Willems is the college's director of marketing.The 15-minute video is part of a one-hour presentation Niagara College's recruitment team makes at secondary schools.

Conlon says he loves the video and the high school students love it too.

"It brings the college to the [high school] students. It's innovative and hip. The secondary school market can relate to it."

The video, hosted by General Arts and Science student and former student ambassador Chris Keith, features student testimonials, interviews with college graduates and video clips of students at last year's End of the Year Bash at Big Bucks Mountain Lodge in St. Catharines. It follows Keith as he takes two students on a campus tour. No narrators, no voiceovers.

"It shows real life. It's exciting. I'm 38 years old and I think it's cool," says Conlon.

The video is an aid to what the recruitment team does. They went to 350 high schools across Ontario in the fall, visiting every Grade 10 student in the Niagara region on the way and took two weeks in September to fly as far as the Manitoba border.

"Our theory is those kids have to leave home for post-secondary education, so why not Niagara?"

Conlon says the video they used before was "too corporate and too contrived," so the college's marketing department facilitated production of the video, and the college made the financial commitment.

The video, made in March and April of last year, can soon be found on the college's website.

To get a heads-up on what kind of video David Mole and Outside The In Communications created, just think back to the Tim Hortons' students at Scotland's University of St. Andrews' commercial. That was Mole.

Willems says she's also "very pumped" about its creation.

"The video focuses on life at the college through the eyes of a student. It didn't focus on stats and facts. You can get that elsewhere."

Willems says that describing life at the college effectively is a challenge.

The goal of the video is to help potential students make a more educated choice about post-secondary institutions and "make them feel like they know the college a little better than they would have before seeing the video."

Davis will be missed

Continued from page 1

"He is a great loss. I'm losing a friend in close proximity, but I know we will remain friends," said Martha Casson, vice-president international during the celebration.

"It has been an honour working with such a great academic vice-president," she added.

"He always prepares a well-thought-out message of support and encouragement" whether he addresses a Rotary group meeting, the academics department or a corporate convocation, said Patterson.

"Above all, he will leave a legacy of having a wonderful sense of humour, so much so that we have put this as a requirement for the next vice-president of academics," explained Patterson.

Davis's replacement has yet to be chosen.

Meanwhile, the Dean of Academic and General Studies Barry Sharpe has become the acting vice-president of academic and learner services. He will receive help from Casson, who will assume the responsibility for student services.

Beverley Davies, co-ordinator of the General Arts and Science program and academic staff representative, said she could best describe Davis in two words: "efficiency and humour."

"The meetings began and ended on time," adding that agendas were "always" met.

"He had a genuine interest in students," she explained, adding that Davis took time to know and understand "what students felt."

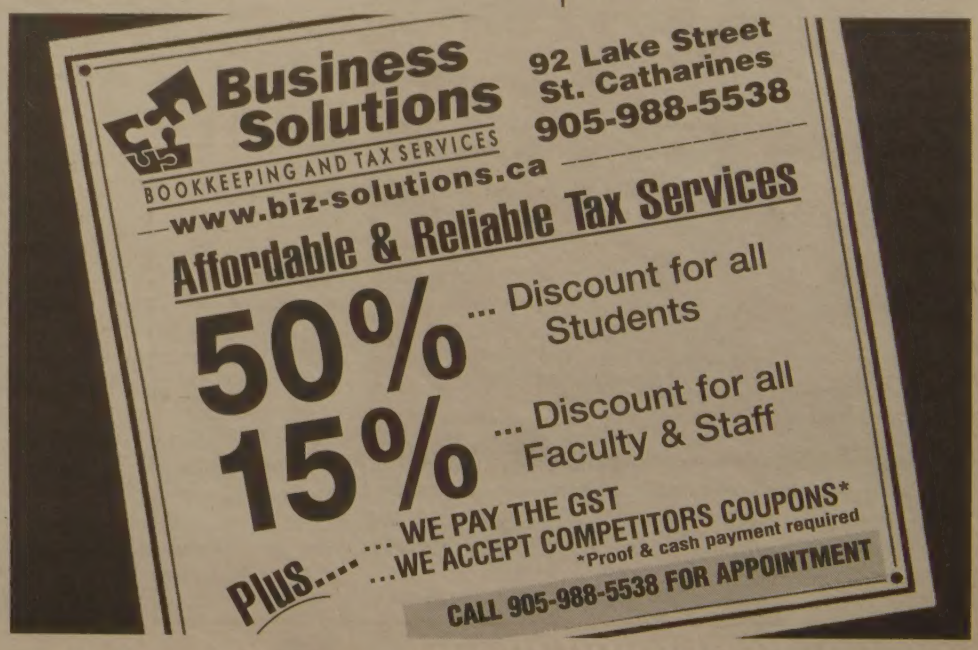
"He had a real commitment to meeting their expectations," Davies concluded.

During his speech, Davis said he was "very sad to leave," yet he added that "it's nice to leave a college that is number one [in student satisfaction]."

Davis' punctuality, job efficiency and academic interest were the common traits his peers emphasized.

"He's been able to forge a strong academic team, and he'll be missed," said Steven Hudson, vice-president corporate services.

"He'll be very difficult to replace. I'm sorry to see him go, but he has a great opportunity in B.C.," added Darrell Neufeld, manager corporate communications.



How low can you go?

By LESLEY KERR
Staff Writer

After the fun, there'll be heavy work ahead as the annual elections kits are being prepared for candidates and a celebration of all things Student Administrative Council (SAC) is planned.

Last Thursday was sunny like the Caribbean but accompanied by near-zero temperatures, so the Bahamas barbeque was a cold one at Niagara College's Glendale campus.

SAC at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Glendale campus hosted a free barbeque for all students from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

The lineup for hamburgers ran across the courtyard, while busy SAC members grilled the grub.

Heather Minow, SAC's director of programming and student events, hosted a limbo contest and a dancing contest.

The limbo contestants were getting low to the ground as the bar hovered a mere two feet above the dirt.

Corey Lee, 19, was one of the limbo winners.

The dancing contest was meant to be a hula-hoop contest, but no hula-hoops could be found because they were out of season. Too bad.

Minow says, "I don't charge students to come to my events. They pay an activity fee. They pay us to work here. I'm here to give them something for free, like the barbeque.

"With the exception of our big fundraising events, we don't charge them."

The pub nights at The Armoury are also free for the students, but there is a $2 cover charge for non-students.

Pub Night, held every other Wednesday, is put together by the pub night contestants.

In The Armoury on Monday, Feb. 6, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., SAC invited Dan Valkos, a psychic, to do psychic readings for students at the college.

Minow says, "It's strictly questions. Each student gets three questions and because the questions are quite specific, he can go through the students quickly."

He tries to go through about 100 students within the two hours he's at The Armoury.

Monday through Friday, Feb. 10, is SAC celebration week. SAC will sell candy grams to raise money for SAC celebration.

"I have Tuesday, Feb. 7, off so on Tuesday I'm hand delivering candy grams to students at Glendale," Minow says.

On Feb. 13, election kits for SAC come out.

The election is for any student to become part of SAC in the next year.

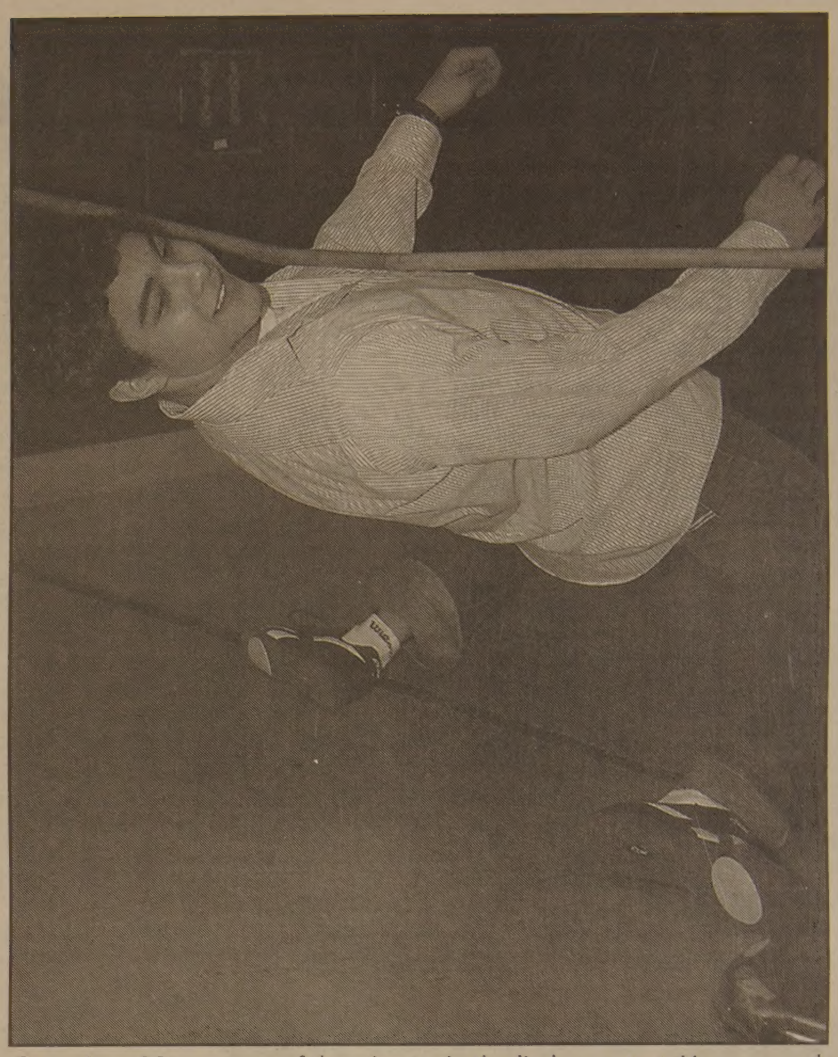
Students applying should look at the job descriptions in the SAC kits so they understand the skills required for that position.

"For example, a student applying for director of communications and media is encouraged to be efficient in Photoshop and program publishing [software], so they can create a website," Minow says. 'There's no point in taking a position if you can't do it competently."

Students applying must return applications within two weeks.

The students accepted as candidates have three weeks in March for campaigning. The last week of March is for voting.

"We encourage anyone who is ambitious and dedicated, anyone who wants to make changes in the college or anyone just inspired to do something [to run]."



Corey Lee, 19, was one of the winners in the limbo contest. He squeezed under a limbo pole that was only about two feet off the ground.

Photo by Lesley Kerr

Rubbish bin thanks students at Welland campus cafeteria

By ROBIN HEALEY
Staff Writer

The lift door of the new trash bin at the college's Welland campus opens automatically, and an electronic voice says, "Thank you." The door locks as the bin buzzes and explains that it is completing its waste "compacting cycle."

"It's cool, isn't it?" asks Lee-Ann McAlpine, while tossing away a piece of trash. The 20-year-old, second-year Child and Youth Worker student, from St. Catharines, was surprised the first time the garbage bin thanked her.

"I'm encouraging everyone to take advantage of it," says Brad Barnhart, 51, supervisor of maintenance and plant operations for Facilities Management, at the Welland campus, from Stevensville, Ont., in a telephone interview.

He says the garbage bin is called the Smart Pack and is on loan from At Source Recycling Systems Corp. for a 45-day trial that began on Jan. 9. The trial is free. "We'd probably get a few more if it worked out."

He is unsure whether the college will buy the Smart Pack outright or lease it to take advantage of At Source's offer to include maintenance. He says he cannot give an accurate cost yet, since he is uncertain how many Smart Packs the college would buy or lease. He says he will discuss pricing with the company's sales representative towards the end of the trial.

On average, maintenance staff hauled 20 bags of garbage from the Welland campus cafeteria per day last fall. Barnhart says it is too soon for statistics to indicate how much the Smart Pack has affected the load, but Penny Lemay and Maria Raic, who are part of the maintenance staff at the college's Welland campus, say the Smart Pack has reduced the time they spend removing waste from the cafeteria.

"Every time it closes, it crushes the garbage," says Raic. She says the container displays a red light on the outside and locks itself when crushing the trash into cubes, while a blue ozone light shines inside to keep flies away.

"The ozone light kills bacteria and germs," adds Barnhart.

"It holds 14 bags of garbage," says Lemay. "So far, I love it."

"So far, we're impressed by the way it's working," says Barnhart.

He notes the bags "are quite heavy" when they have been compacted and require a skiff to move them. Barnhart says the Glendale campus wouldn't be able to use the Smart Pack, because the waste disposal route contains too many stairs to allow the skiff passage.

He says the compactor keeps the Smart Pack from overflowing and adds that its electronic voice can be programmed to deliver informative messages or advertisements.

Lemay, Raic and Barnhart say students are recycling more than in the past and are doing so with better separation of metal, paper and plastic goods. Barnhart attributes this to the new recycling centres stationed throughout the campus. He says their design gives them "curb appeal."

As for the Smart Pack, Barnhart says, "The more it is used, the greater the likeliness the college will order some."

Niagara College Child and Youth Worker student Lee-Ann McAlpine tosses some trash into the new Smart Pack automated trash compactor at the college's Welland campus.

Photo by Robin Healey

Career fair offers job opportunities

Niagara College's Job Centre and Brock University's Career Services are co-hosting a free career fair for students and alumni on Feb. 8 at the Four Points Sheraton in St. Catharines. The fair runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

More than 30 local and area employers have booths at this year's event.

"The Career Fair provides students with a great opportunity to begin building their employer contact network as well as their job search foundation," says Meghan Clark, co-op and graduate counsellor at the college's Job Centre.

A free shuttle bus service from the Glendale and Welland campuses will begin leaving at 9:30 a.m. from the front doors at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and the Merritt Building at the Welland campus.

For more information, call the Job Centre at 905-735-2211 ext. 7777 or log on to www.niagarac.on.ca/jobcentre.

What's happening at the college

SAC holds limbo contest

Talking trash bin comes to Welland campus

Career Fair on Feb. 8

CSI Niagara educates students

By KAESHA FORAND
Staff Writer

Blood splatter in the Hamilton Room focused the night.

Police Foundations program students at the Welland campus had the opportunity to sit in on a special lecture: CSI Niagara.

Det. Sgt. Greg Hyatt and Det. Const. Craig Moore, of the Niagara Regional Police (NRP) Service, spoke to about 100 students on Nov. 29 about forensics and blood splatter analysis. Their PowerPoint presentation offered a different view of investigations with graphic, real-life pictures.

"Everyone here might not want to be a police officer. They may want to explore different avenues," said Hyatt, who has been with the NRP for 33 years.

He added they were speaking to students to explain the difference between "the myths and the reality." Although many television shows like CSI educate people, crimes are not solved in an hour. Hyatt said it could take up to four or five days to identify a body and months to solve a crime.

Moore, with the NRP for 21 years, is an internationally recognized expert on bloodstain pattern analysis. His job is to "try to determine what transpired at the scene of a crime," he explains.

Moore uses trigonometry and studies the size, shape and location of blood to determine what occurred. He uses string and computer systems to determine blood trajectory and origin. A picture of a suicide victim was used to explain these theories. Gino Arcaro, co-ordinator of the Police Foundations program, spoke highly of Hyatt and Moore and said having experts in the field speaking to students is valuable.

Hyatt recalled what was supposed to be a routine check on an elderly woman in 2003 in Welland. Her family called and was concerned because they had not heard from her in years.

When he first walked into the house, he was struck by the smell. In a bedroom, with the door closed, the mummified body of an elderly woman was found by officers. She had been dead for years, but was still wearing her glasses, nightgown and slippers.

Pathologists and the coroner were called in to investigate, but faced a problem. The body was stuck to the floor and had to be examined to determine the cause of death. The NRP used a saw to "cut her and the floor out in one piece." She died of natural causes about 10 years before being discovered.

The NRP responds to 3,800 to 4,000 calls per year. In the last five years about $1 million has been invested to upgrade equipment and training in forensic labs so evidence and procedures are equal to other areas, the officers told the students.

The upgrades allow the NRP to offer services in forensic photography, fingerprint, palm print, footprints, tool and tire marks, footwear impressions, identification verification, vehicle examination, trace evidence collection, bloodstain pattern, interpretation scale diagrams, DNA sample collection, mug shots and still photo/video re-enactments.

Hyatt and Moore have spoken at similar venues in high schools, colleges, universities and police colleges and at conferences. This was the second consecutive year for CSI Niagara and was organized by Tanner Kavanaugh, Jerri Eyman, Brian Heipal and Lisa Coburn, all Police Foundations students.

Det. Const. Craig Moore, left, and Det. Sgt. Greg Hyatt were at the Welland campus lecturing Police Foundations program students for an event called CSI Niagara.

Photo by Kaesha Forand

CSI Fact vs. Fiction

- The show suggests that CSI investigators speak with suspects/witnesses. In reality, investigating the scene is mainly their job.
- Fingerprints and other evidence are not found on every scene (as on the TV show).
- In reality, CSI has a more scentific approach. The Automated Fingerprint Identification Systems (AFIS) technology points investigators in the right direction. It does not name a suspect *(as on the TV show).*

— Det. Sgt. Greg Hyatt

Keeping everyone safe at Niagara

By AMANDA REYNOLDS
Staff Writer

The safety of students and everyone else at Niagara College is important.

Feeling safe in a place where you spend a majority of your time is not only important to you, but also important to the security personnel here.

Rick Demers, manager, heath, safety and security, says he would ask students not to hesitate to ask for any type of assistance that security can provide.

"The more students report concerns and occurrences, the better we can serve their needs."

The college is trying to branch out with new partnerships. Demers says, "We want to increase relationships with Police Foundations and Law and Security [Administration programs]." He added that his staff also want to work with the New Initiatives Club.

There have been some complaints regarding the security at the college, most of which involve the enforcement of non-smoking areas and some parking lot issues. Demers says monitoring and patrolling the parking lot is difficult.

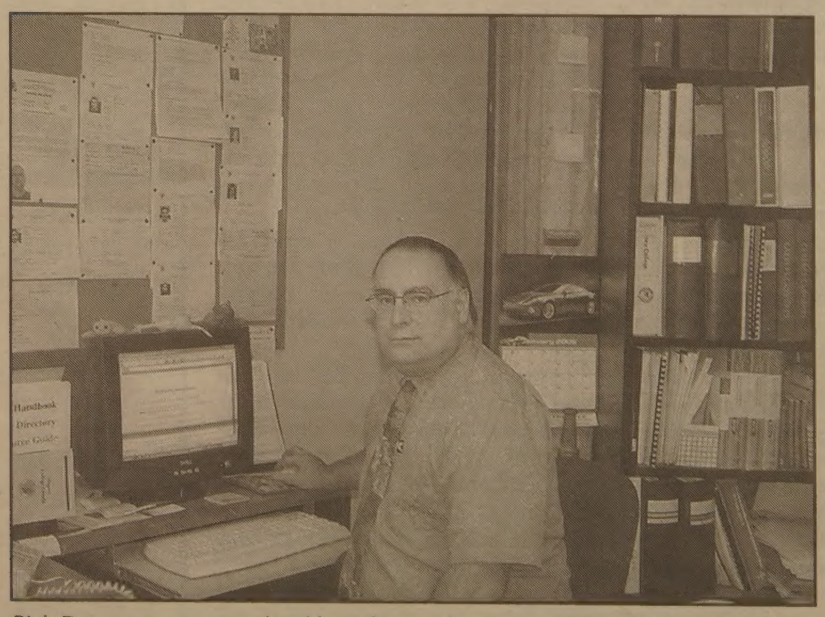
To provide security and customer service, the college pays an annual cost of "about $400,000," Demers calculates.

This is to pay the security staff at three campuses, two of which are on a continual basis, and to provide security protection and customer service.

Improvements in the next two years include a formal health and safety audit by the Education Safety Association of Ontario and development of a website by the college's joint health and safety committee.

"We want to ensure we're always striving for improvement," Demers says.

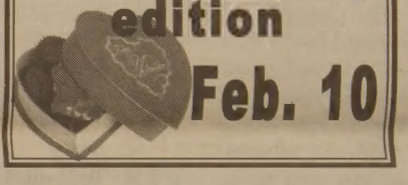
"I really do think, particularly in the last several years, standards have been raised a lot. I feel quite positive about the evolution of security developmentat the college."



Rick Demers, manager, health, safety and security, works at his computer on the Welland campus.

Photo by Amanda Reynolds

See our Valentine's Day edition Feb. 10



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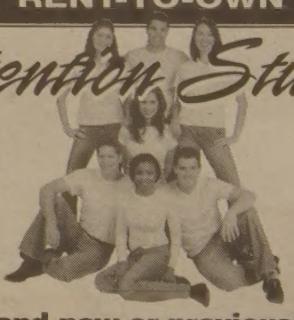

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XODUS gathers to pray at Welland campus

By LESLEY KERR
Staff Writer

On Monday, a Journalism-Print student was taken by the sight of a group of males peacefully praying in an open lobby at the college's Welland campus.

XODUS, a Christian group, gathered about 7 p.m.

Michael Bastor, Aaron Black, Jason Petznick, 19, Aaron McNutt, 20, Dennis Ogilvie, 20, Rick McFadden, 24, and Michael Will finished a prayer and then talked about the XODUS group.

They said they just started putting up more posters around the school and will continue to do so.

Most people hear about the program "by word of mouth or by good journalists that do articles on them," one of the group said, laughing.

The seven males said they had just separated from the other half of the group, all women. They gathered in the Secord Room for a separate discussion group.

Petznick says they separate so the men get a chance to connect with each other, as do the women; then they get a chance to connect with everyone.

Bastor adds, "The smaller groups give everyone a chance to talk."

"The group is open for anyone interested."

It meets every Monday at the Welland campus around 7 p.m. but the time might change, said the group.

For more information, contact XODUS at xodus@yahoo.ca.

Bastor says, "It is for anyone who might have questions about Christianity."

Petznick adds, "Or for anyone who is going through hard times."

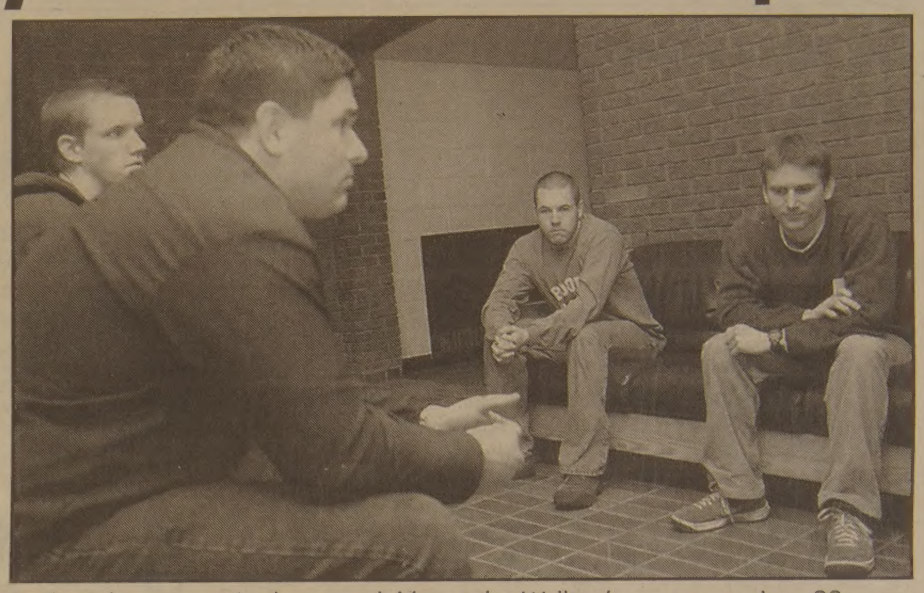
Michael Will, pastor of Pelham Evangelical Friends Church, was the guest speaker at the XODUS meeting that night.

He commented, "Ninety per cent of people who have not accepted God in their lives by the end of freshman year of college probably never will," adding that's why this program is important for students.

Bastor says the group has not done other activities yet because the members are trying to create a foundation first. They have one fun night a month. On Feb. 26, at Centennial High School, on Thorold Road, XODUS is putting on an all-ages concert. Three of the five bands include Kids in the Way, Tokyo Rose and House of Hero's.

The radio station Life 100.3 FM will be there and is sponsoring the event.

Doors open around 5 p.m. and admission is $15.



Gathered in prayer in the open lobby at the Welland campus on Jan. 30 were, clockwise from front, Michael Will, pastor of Pelham Evangelical Friends Church; Aaron McNutt, 20, a Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film program student; Dennis Ogilvie, 20, of Emo, Ont.; Rick McFadden, 24, of Brantford, a Fitness and Health Promotion program student. Also present were Aaron Black, of Peterborough, Jason Petznick, 19, of Drayton, Ont., a Journalism-Print program student and Michael Baxter.

Photo by Takahide Eguchi

Celebrating Asian New Year at Glendale campus

From left, enjoying their beer are Latoya Graham, 20, of Bahamas, Bryan BoekHoudt, 24, of Aruba, Trisa Augier, 20, of St. Lucia, at the Asian New Year at the Glendale campus, on Jan. 27. **Photo by Takahide Eguchi**

Ritesh Gupta, of India, a Computer Network Operations (Graduate Certificate) program student, is in a good mood at the Asian New Year party held at The Armoury at the Glendale campus on Jan. 27. **Photo by Takahide Eguchi**

By TAKAHIDE EGUCHI
Staff Writer

People had fun at an Asian New Year party on Jan. 27.

The party was held from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at The Armoury pub at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

After several activities that included quizzes and musical performances, everyone queued at the long rectangular table where huge iron containers of Asian dishes were placed.

Ying Yingsi Qiu, 25, from China, a first-year student, says it is "very important" since it is the "beginning of the year," adding it is the "biggest" celebration of the year.

She says she did "a lot" of preparation for the party although she was worried about whether people were interested in coming to it.

She says she wants to continue to have the party to celebrate different cultures and pointed out she wants more people attending.

"It's good for not only students but also Niagara College," says Qiu.

Suiting Hu, 21, of China, is a first-year student in the Hotel and Restaurant Management (Co-op) program.

The party "makes me miss new year in China," she says.

She says the new year is a time to stay with her family and to have fun.

She came to Canada to "make my life more colourful," Hu says, with a bashful smile.

Lim Yang, 37, originally from China, an engineer, became a Canadian citizen five years ago.

He likes living in Canada because it accepts people from "all over the world" and it opens the "door for everyone," stresses Yang.

He says his friend invited him to the party and he enjoyed a performance by his daughter, Yang Hui Lin, 11, of Welland, who used Hu Lu Si, an instrument with the reeds inside a dried gourd body.

Thirty-year-old Ankur Kohli, from India, volunteered for the party.

"It's picking up," he says, sitting on a bench outside The Armoury.

He participated in the event because of his "curiosity" about why people celebrate the new year on that day, mentioning he was interested in animal astrology.

He is a Geographic Information Systems (Graduate *Certificate) program student.*

He says another reason he came was "for a change" from his daily life because the program "leaves no time" and for work experience, which he can put on his resumé.

Sukwoo Lee is a 23-year-old student in the English as a Second Language program.

"It was not good, frankly," says Lee, emphasizing the participants should have prepared some traditional things to represent Chinese and Korean cultures.

Lee wants to learn Canadian culture and "make relationships" with Canadians.

He underlines that learning about other cultures is "more important than learning English. I don't think I'm here just to learn English."

My Dang, 23, of Niagara Falls, is originally from Vietnam. A Motive Power Technician program student, he says he liked the music at the event.

He says he feels the day is important.

"It does not matter where you go to celebrate," says Dang. "It's my day."

Asian New Year aka Chinese New Year lasts for 15 days beginning with the new moon and ending with the full moon.

Some Asian countries such as China and Korea use the lunar calendar for festive occasions while others use the solar calendar.

Thus the Asian New Year starts in late January to mid-February based on the lunar calendar.

There are 12 animals that represent the year. Those animal names are recycled every 12 years in a system called Stem-Branch.

For example, 2006 is the year of dog. Each animal rotates year by year in this sequence: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, rooster, dog, and boar. Next year, it will be the year of boar.

Find your animal

Rat (1948, 1960, 1972, 1984)
Ox (1949, 1961, 1973, 1985)
Tiger (1950, 1962, 1974, 1986)
Rabbit (1951, 1963, 1975, 1987)
Dragon (1952, 1964, 1976, 1988)
Snake (1953, 1965, 1977, 1989)
Horse (1954, 1966, 1978, 1990)
Sheep (1955, 1967, 1979, 1991)
Monkey (1956, 1968, 1980, 1992)
Rooster (1957, 1969, 1981, 1993)
Dog (1958, 1970, 1982, 1994)
Boar (1959, 1971, 1983, 1995)

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Pickton pleads not guilty to 27 murder charges

Nearly four years after his arrest, Robert Pickton is finally going to court.

Pickton has been charged with 27 counts of first-degree murder.

Pickton owned a pig farm in Port Coquitlam, B.C., where, in his spare time, he's said to have killed and buried women.

His victims, primarily sex-trade workers, were part of a long list of abducted women.

Pickton's case quickly became the largest serial killer investigation in Canadian history.

After a long wait, victims' family members will have some rest as Jan. 30 marked the first day of his trial. It started with arguments about what evidence is admissible. According to his lawyer, Pickton is pleading not guilty.

That is completely absurd.

The man is accused of murdering 27 women, so why allow him to plead not guilty? Sorry, Robert, but I can't say you deserve that defence at all.

I guess it's just my reasoning that if you kill and bury people on your own property for almost two decades, there might be enough evidence against you.

After originally being charged with 15 counts, Pickton was charged with another 12 counts in May 2005.

To think that children are dying from disease, famine and abuse all over the world while this guy gets a fair trial and wastes taxpayers' money makes me sick to my stomach.

Many, I would like to believe, share this thought.

I feel guilty for thinking this way. I want to believe in "innocent until proven guilty," but I can't seem to shake the idea of these suffering women.

Where do I go from here?

I think I have to make myself believe that, at the end of the day, the world is basically good and justice will prevail.

Ernest Hemingway once said, "The world is a fine place and worth fighting for." I hope for our sakes he's right.

Pickton sure made me question this idea.

JENNIFER GIBBONS

Valentine's Day fast appoaching

Check out our Valentine's Day Issue on stands Feb. 10. Stumped for gift ideas for your special someone? Don't worry, *news@niagara* has you covered. **Photo by Melissa Topp**

College Notes

Well-deserved celebration for Photonics

It's called a Celebration of Photonics.

On Thursday, Feb. 16, the Niagara College Photonics programs will sponsor a special open house beginning at 4 p.m. in the college's Welland campus Secord Room.

The event is aimed at recognizing and celebrating the growth and success of the college's Photonics Engineering degree and diploma programs. A number of tours, student projects and demonstrations will be held. The public is welcome to attend.

Don't forget about Reading Week

It's almost Reading Week at Niagara College.

There are no classes on Feb. 27, Feb. 28, March 1, 2 and 3. However, the college will be open.

Here's a reminder to work hard and finish your assignments on deadline.

Independent musicians not selling out, just trying to get by

In the industry, many musicians earn the majority of their paycheques through endorsements and record sales. With the growing popularity of pirated music, record sales are rapidly declining.

As a result, the number of endorsement deals and their dollar value are mushrooming, but are bands selling out, especially those with independent music labels? What constitutes independent music anyway?

Its popularity grows as the music of bands like The Arcade Fire is played on major radio stations. This makes some people unhappy. The worry is that as these bands become more popular, will they soon be reaping the benefits?

iPod, for example, uses various types of music for commercials, but does it mean those bands have sold their souls by letting their music be used by such large companies as Apple?

Personally, I think not. People need to make money, and you know that it's every kid's dream to be rich and famous. I highly doubt that if someone offered you a $1-million deal to use your music in a commercial that you would turn it down.

Other bands, like Radiohead for example, are hugely popular and have a long track record. You hardly ever hear their music on the radio, yet somehow they managed to play sold-out audiences within the last decade at their live shows.

How does this happen?

How far can a band go before it's called a sell-out? What is a sell-out?

Music shouldn't be judged on its popularity. It should not be considered bad music because the bands have decided to make a music video or because they have let their songs be used by iPod.

Good music is simply that: good music. How or where it's played will not change the quality of it.

KATHERINE GRIGGS

Many Hands project update

Organizers of this year's Many Hands project are sponsoring a Girls Night Out fundraiser on Sunday, Feb. 15, featuring the movie Sleepless in Seattle at the Greg Frewing Theatre in Niagara Falls.

The night will include food, a silent auction, cash bar and a display table of different women's products available in Niagara.

Doors open at 6 p.m. with the movie beginning at 7:15 p.m.

For more details visit: http://www.geocities, com/nightout4thegirls or telephone 905-641-2252, ext. 6475, or e-mail at: nightout4thegirls@hotmail.com

The Many Hands project is a one-day renovation blitz using a number of Niagara College programs, including the Event Management (Graduate Certificate) program. This year's recipient is the Women's Resource Centre in Beamsville.

Columns

Interracial couples subject of study

Elisabeth Bailey
Columnist

Differences in culture and religion have sparked conflicts since the beginning of history. Add love to the mix and you have quite an explosive combination.

This is the experience of many, including me, who are in interracial relationships. I have been with my boyfriend for two years. He is a West-Indian man born in Trinidad, and I am the Canadian-born daughter of two British immigrants. The existence of interracial relationships is a topic I wanted to write about and the subject of relevant research in Canada today.

Rebecca Malhi is a psychology graduate student at the University of Calgary. She is researching interracial relationships in Canada. Malhi became interested in researching interracial couples after she did her master's thesis study of South Asian women in Canada on their experiences of prejudice, discrimination and their identity issues.

"This was sort of continuing on in a slightly different aspect," said Malhi. "I was reading that interracial couples were also facing some prejudice towards their relationships. My supervisor is actually a researcher in relationships, so it seemed to be a good combination: to look at prejudice and stereotypes as well as relationships."

She is doing two studies for her dissertation. The first will look at attitudes to interracial relationships, and the second will focus on people within them. Malhi said she wants to see if there are differences in the two groups' viewpoints. She said that she thinks she might find that people inside the relationships will focus on similarities and people outside of them will focus on differences.

Malhi said that there is not much research on the subject outside Canada. Research from the United States focuses mainly on African-American and Caucasian combination couples. A Canadian perspective is an important aspect of the studies.

"We have a different history between the ethnic groups. We don't have a history of slavery. We do have social policy on multiculturalism. I am expecting that people will think that there is more tolerance and less animosity towards interracial couples in Canada."

Despite hypothesizing that interracial relationships are more acceptable in Canada, Malhi said that they still do face problems.

Malhi said that many of the people she's interviewed, mainly university students, say if they were in a relationship with a different ethnic background person were to bring that person home to meet their families, they would face challenges.

Malhi said these people say their parents might not be "100 per cent positive" about the relationship and their grandparents would be opposed to it.

I had a more humourous experience with my grandmother than outright opposition to my relationship. She quite liked my boyfriend when she visited a year and half ago, but did say to my aunt when she returned to England, "He's a nice boy, but he's black as the ace of spades."

Another challenge interracial couples face, said Malhi, is negative attention in public. She says many people stare and whisper when they see an interracial couple.

What Malhi was not surprised to hear about when I spoke with her is that the public attention, in my experience, often comes from people who are West Indian, South Asian and black as opposed to those who are Caucasian.

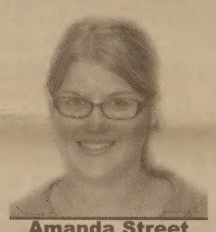
Malhi said some people in certain ethnic groups consider a relationship with a Caucasian person as "selling out."

It's my opinion, drawing on my experience, that if white people object to seeing an interracial relationship in public, they are more likely to hide their disapproval because it is no longer acceptable to appear racist.

Malhi says her research might be able to help relationship counsellors better help interracial couples encountering difficulties.

Interracial relationships have their own set of troubles and complications, but so does every relationship. I think that true love is worth having, no matter what skin it's in.

Book still worth reading



Amanda Street
Columnist

Is a writer's merit based on the truth behind his words?

Recently, the credibility of James Frey's memoir A Million Little Pieces hit the news. His memoir takes readers into one of America's greatest drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres (which he never names) and describes the struggle he went through to become sober. The book is laden with blood, vomit and glory, all told in Frey's prose.

The Smoking Gun website, an online research group, over a six-week investigation, found that large parts of Frey's memoir were fabricated and embellished.

Police reports, interviews with law enforcers, court reports and other sources show that Frey's life as a criminal wasn't as harsh as he made it out to be. Frey writes of being wanted in three states and of a particular incident in Ohio that involved violence against a police officer.

Another incident Frey embellished was his role in a train accident in his hometown that cost two teenage girls their lives. In the book, Frey writes about a girl, named Michelle, who was his only friend. Michelle wanted to go out on a date and lied to her parents by saying she and James were going to a movie. Michelle and her date are hit by a train. He lives and she dies.

"I got blamed by her parents and by their friends and by everyone else in that f***ing hellhole. If she hadn't lied and if I hadn't helped her, it would not have happened," Frey writes.

In reality, two girls were killed in the accident, and one of the mothers says she never thought Frey had anything to do with the accident.

I still enjoyed A Million Little Pieces and am reading the sequel, My Friend Leonard. I'm sure every author of an autobiography or a memoir embellishes a little bit. Writing the plain truth would be boring, and who really remember things to the very last detail?

The Smoking Gun went on to say that if parts of the memoir had a trail that couldn't be proven, how can we believe anything Frey has to say?

I believe Frey. I believe in the struggle he had with drugs and alcohol, and I believe his account of his time spent in rehab. If he embellished facts, so what? It made the book that much more interesting. It's not easy to write a book or get one published. If he had to jazz it up a little, who are we to judge him?

A good book is a good book, whether it is fact or fiction. I don't feel betrayed as a reader or as a fan. It takes courage and patience to write a book of this sort. Even if parts are embellished or completely false, the book had me trapped beginning on page one. Not just any writer can do that.

Big Sisters' charity work offers rewarding experience

It has been almost a year since since *I became a Big Sister for Big Brothers* Big Sisters.

Becoming a big sister is one of the best choices I have made. Although there are times my little sister can be hyper or won't listen and I have to give up part of my limited free time after school, homework and job, it's worth every minute of the effort. It's worth it to see her smile, knowing I've made a difference in her life.

Cherie Borho
Columnist

I grew up an only child. It wasn't until I turned 10 that I was given a half sister and two years later a half brother. Until then, I always wanted a big sister from the organization, but I never got one.

I figure since I couldn't have a big sister, why not be one? This way, there won't be another little girl wishing the same thing I had.

I made my choice to become one when I was 17 when my half siblings moved to England. I thought it was a good time to get involved. You have to be 18 to be a big sister, so for my last year of high school, I did an in school mentoring program, once a week, during my spare.

A little after I turned 18, bought a car and moved to Welland, I became a big sister.

I will be sad to leave her when I graduate this year. She has become a big part of my life, and I have become a big part of hers. I don't know where I'll be after graduation, but I do hope to keep in touch.

I know that if we lose contact because calls and e-mail just aren't good enough, I have made a positive impact on her life and that's all that matters.

SAC election kits available

Student Administrative Council (SAC) election kits are available at your SAC at the Welland campus or the Glendale campus at Niagara-on-the-Lake from Feb. 13 to Feb. 24.

There eight elected positions available on SAC. They include president, executive vice-president, director of: student affairs, communications media, programming and student events and three student representatives.

Applicants accepted will have three weeks to campaign before votes are counted.

For more information about job descriptions go to www.http://www.ncsac.ca/student_centres.htm.

Journalists, including those in the Journalism-Print program at Niagara College, are taught that their reporting must be balanced, fair and as objective as possible. That rule must also exist for columns written by reporters. In columns, the feelings and opinions of reporters are welcome, but balance, fairness and objectivity must never be disregarded or treated lightly. Our columns, which are clearly identified as such, do not reflect the opinions or feelings of the Niagara College administration or the management of the *news@niagara*. Columns reflect the opinion of only one person: the writer.

Residence students enjoy fun night at Bowl-o-Rama

By JAYLENE POIRIER
Staff Writer

Bowl-O-Rama was pleased to welcome the Niagara College residence students to a night of bowling. At the lanes on Jan. 21, Lizy, Frenchie, Allen, Sam, Andre, Andrea and David all took to the lanes to compete in a friendly game of five-pin bowling.

In the Niagara Street, Welland bowling alley, the mood was set with dark lighting, strobe lights and music of all genres to help entertain the students and anyone else who took part in the Saturday night bowling.

The Niagara College residence committee plans a few field trips every month, which the students sign up for in the front lobby.

Anouchka "Frenchie" Milliat, 17, of Antigua, Caribbean Islands, in the Graphic Design Production — Art and Design Fundamentals program, says, "It's fun to get out and have a good time with friends. We're kind of like a big family."

Milliat had a final score of 144 with two spares.

Lizy Lowe, 18, of Uxbridge, Ont., and in the same program, says that she "finds out about the events more easily" because her roommate is not only a Resident Adviser but also a member of the Student Orientation Staff.

Lowe said, "My favourite part of the night was the bowling."

With a final score of 119 and one strike, David Curado, 21, of St. Williams, Ont., in the Electronics Engineering Technician program, says that he "likes being with friends. You get to get out and meet people within the residence, because during the day you don't get to because of school, so this gives you a different opportunity to meet them."

The residents paid for the first game. The students paid for any additional games, plus the cost of shoe rentals.

Letter from faculty union chair

TO: All faculty
FROM: Ted Montgomery, Negotiating Team Chair
DATE: Jan. 19, 2006
RE: Negotiations

College presidents sent a letter or e-mail last week to faculty at nearly every college. While the letters bear the individual signatures of the presidents, they are identical word for word. It is good to see that the college presidents are taking a direct interest in faculty negotiations. It is unfortunate that they have misunderstood or misrepresented and omitted some important facts about those negotiations. The union team sincerely hopes that the dialogue the presidents have opened will lead to their better understanding from this point forward.

The Monetary Offer

The letter compares management's salary offer to Ontario high school teachers, to college teachers in other provinces, and to Ontario college support staff. Following 1989 negotiations, a Joint Wages and Benefits Task Force was struck by the arbitrator so that the colleges and the faculty union could establish the proper comparator groups to guide and focus salary and benefits negotiations. That task force and a follow-up task force determined that the proper comparator groups were Ontario public high school teachers and Ontario university teachers, that the comparison points should be the base salary maximums for each of those groups, and that Ryerson Polytechnic Institution was the closest comparator. Other comparators were explicitly excluded and, in particular, all those outside of Ontario. The Task Force also confirmed the long-existing understanding that Ontario College teacher salaries belonged between those two comparators. [Ryerson has become a full university and accordingly can no longer be considered a direct close comparator on its own.]

But to ignore the Ontario universities and to attempt to bring in comparisons with groups explicitly excluded by the Wages and Benefits Study do a disservice to negotiations. The union has stuck and will stick to the properly agreed-to comparators, Ontario public high school teachers and Ontario university professors.

The colleges' monetary offer at the end of the four-year period proposed is, when fully compounded, a 12.6 per cent increase over our current salary. The offer is for two per cent on Sept. 1 and an additional one per cent on April 1 in each of the four years, which leaves faculty with an effective raise of only 2.43 per cent a year in the actual dollar value of the increase.

Unmentioned in the presidents' memo and not included in their salary analysis is that Ontario high school settlements all include an additional 0.5 per cent increase in the last two years of their contracts based on the government meeting certain fiscal targets and the cost of living. At this time, there is every clear indication that the fiscal targets will be met, that the Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) will kick in so that high school teachers will receive the additional 0.5 per cent in each of the next two years.

The contract offered to college faculty extends beyond the current high school and university agreements. Extrapolating one year forward and using the identical figures as in the previous two-year period, Ontario public high school teachers will receive a compounded increase of 13.08 per cent over the proposed four-year period. University professors will receive a 13.64 per cent increase. This means that the 12.6 per cent compounded increase offered by management will result in college faculty receiving smaller salary increases than high schools and falling further away from the midpoint of the gap between our comparator groups.

The presidents' memo also refers to additional salary allowances, but only to the college faculty allowances. No mention is made of the many high school and university faculty allowances. Annual increments are also mentioned. In fact, neither allowances nor annual increments are included in wage negotiation discussions other than as separate and specific topics. To mix in allowances and annual increments, especially only with reference to one of the groups being compared, muddies the waters and misleads. The union excludes all allowances for all comparator groups in our salary proposals and discussions. [The maximum college faculty salary cited in the president's letter of $94,277 includes the recognition allowance, repackaged as a so-called step, but unavailable to many faculty. It is treated as an allowance in every way other than name.]

Lastly on the monetary issue, the presidents' letter raises the College Support Staff settlement. It does not mention the increases accorded to college presidents. While they, like support staff, are not a comparator group and the union therefore does not rely on their increases as a rationale for our proposals, their salary increases are illustrative. Using the reports of the Ministry of Finance and excluding all presidents who have not been at their college for the two-year period for which the latest figures are available, the average of college presidents salary increases for the year 2003-04 was 6.1 per cent and over the two years, 2002-2004, was 20.65 per cent. The average college president's salary in 2004 was $209,660.

Workload

The college presidents report that the union bargaining team was advised by management that it is not requesting any increase in workload. We were so advised. However, based on examining the actual content and potential impact of management's workload demands, the union did not accept that advice and told management that. The averaging proposal will increase individual faculty workloads in some weeks and in some semesters and will increase them beyond the existing maximums without overtime payment. The proposal regarding work assignments in non-teaching periods will increase annual workloads. The proposal to require faculty to have not a 10-month but a 12-month work plan will increase workloads. Pilot projects with no caps on weekly or annual teaching hours or total workloads will increase workloads. Especially in light of the Rae Report, this is certainly not the time to increase workloads.

The presidents' letter also continues the false claim that the union's proposals for changes to the credits allocated for preparation and evaluation would reduce average teaching hours from 14 to 12 a week. As the union pointed out to management, there is no need at all to reduce weekly teaching hours under the union's proposals. A reduction of class size would solve the problem and that is the faculty's preferred solution. Management advised us at the bargaining table that they had plugged the union's proposed numbers into current SWFs and had to drop teaching contact hours. Of course, if they kept every other variable in the formula the same teaching hours would drop. But they could have just as easily kept the teaching hours the same and dropped the student numbers. Had they done that, the colleges would have to say that the union's demands would have reduced class size and total student contact hours per teacher. Exactly. And that is exactly what the faculty demands are intended to do - give each student more time with his or her teachers by way of smaller classes in applying the workload formula.

Management could create a teaching hour average of 12 per week, but that is entirely in their hands. The trend has been that teaching contact hours are declining, even as total student contact hours per teacher are increasing because management has been increasing class sizes dramatically. And the student/teacher contact hours increases have come despite cutbacks in weekly hours of instruction and in semester length.

As for the cost of the union's proposals cited in the presidents' letter, management has never given this figure (nor any figure) to the union at the bargaining table for the cost of our proposals. They have given us what they are prepared to spend. They have told us that they will not agree to any changes whatsoever. Nothing on workload, other than the $1,000 to every faculty member who agrees to take part in one of their proposed "pilot projects." There is not a further penny in their offer for improved workload. (The offer does include one additional hour for out-of-class assistance to students, but that would have a negligible financial impact. More importantly, that one hour is only available if faculty accept the mandatory posting of all office and online availability, accept averaging of teaching hours and workload, and accept a management right to schedule vacations in other than a two-month period. The averaging alone, because of saved overtime costs, would more than offset any possible costs associated with the additional hour.)

Funding

The president's letter does offer some very useful insights with regard to college funding this year. The letter reports that the funding increase will be "approximately 4.5 per cent," based on a $100 million increase. Combine that with the $87.3 provided to the colleges though the Quality Improvement Fund that arises from the Rae Report recommendations, and the college funding increase this year is 8.5 per cent. The letter notes that the government has signalled no similar commitment for future years. Neither, of course, has the government signalled that it will not have similar funding in future years. No government would or can. But if the future is a concern, I would remind the presidents that the union's offer is for a two-year agreement and that faculty to have a right to consider the future and to retain their flexibility in that regard.

By the way, if - and that's just an if - the colleges were to get a 4.5 per cent increase in next three years as they have this year, not even including the Improvement Fund money, that would be a 19.25 per cent compounded increase, while our salary increase would be 12.6 per cent for the same period.

Will there be a strike?

We sure hope not. But neither will there be a settlement unless management comes to the table with reasonable proposals. We only wish that the presidents' letters stated commitments that: "our students receive the highest quality of education possible," "our faculty members are fairly compensated," and "our colleges continue to deliver strong programs," would manifest themselves at the bargaining table. Sadly, so far the presidents' negotiating representatives have failed to address any of these commitments adequately.

A strike will be harmful. But continuing the current workload and having college salaries fall back would be even more harmful. Faculty did go on strike in 1984. That strike resulted in significant improvements to quality. The faculty strike of 1989 gave the parties a basis for future wages and benefits negotiations and allowed faculty hired before April 1 of 1991 to retain their sick leave plans.

The strike mandates and scheduled strike votes of the last three rounds of negotiations have shown faculty that this is what it sometimes takes to get management to move to a settlement position. On the two instances where strikes have occurred, in the 1980s, the long-term benefits have far outweighed the short-term harm. Those long-term benefits? Exactly the three goals set out in the presidents' letter, quality education for college students, fair compensation for college faculty, and strong programs of study.

I sincerely believe that a settlement can be reached without a strike. Clearly, from the college presidents' own communication and from the ministry's announcements, the funding is available to make quality a priority this year, to make real change. The presidents' letter makes no mention of the Rae Report. I will. It is well-reported that Rae found quality in the college wanting. "Teaching and learning are at the core of college and university missions. The degree of meaningful contact with faculty, the quality of teaching, mentoring and academic counselling, and the attention to unique learning needs, are all key factors that contribute to student satisfaction and success," Rae observed. It should not take a strike to make the improvements necessary for the colleges to fulfil those core missions.

Sincerely,
Ted Montgomery,
Faculty Bargaining Team Chair

Editor's Note: On Jan. 20, *news@niagara* published Ted Montgomery's first letter, then replied on Jan. 27 with a letter from the college presidents, through Dan Patterson, Niagara College president. The previous two letters are available at http://www.newsatniagara.com. Our objective is to give both sides of this dispute an opportunity, in some detail, to outline their positions. The college's position is at http://www.The-Council.on.ca. The OPSE union website is at http://www.opseu.org/caat/college.htm. If no agreement is reached between the Ontario colleges and members of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union, a strike is scheduled for March 7.

Circle, triangle, square and spiral

Which personality type are you?

By JAYLENE POIRIER
Staff Writer

Personality Analysis: A Tool for Human Resource Management in International Tourism and Hospitality was the title for Chandi Jayawardena's seminar on Jan. 25.

Jayawardena is a professor in the Hospitality and Tourism division at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

He is teaching an online course in human resource management.

This course started out being delivered completely online but was recently changed in order for Jayawardena to meet personally with the students.

Throughout the term, there will be four mandatory seminars worth a total of 20 marks and two optional seminars including guest speakers.

There are about 54 students registered at the moment, and every student, whether in a group or not, had to decide on a group organization. The students are encouraged to stick with the same organization throughout the term.

Some of the organizations chosen were White Oaks Racquet and Tennis Club, Four Seasons, Holiday Inn, Fairmont and Sheraton hotels.

At the end of the term, the fourth seminar will be used as a presentation time for all the groups.

In Jayawardena's seminar he uses humour and metaphors to relate to the students and to gain their attention and respect.

One student, Jason Mace, 24, of Burlington, Ont., studying in the Tourism Development (Graduate Certificate) program, says, "I think that [Jayawardena's] personal stories and humour kept people's attention. I also like how he changed the course being 100 per cent online. I like the idea of meeting classmates. Meeting with the teacher is beneficial to our learning."

Most of the seminar was based on Jayawardena's personal experiences running and working in a hotel.

"Running a hotel is like being a conductor. You have people who are the specialists, but you are there to harmonize everything," says Jayawardena.

He also tells of his experiences serving Saddam Hussein's son and relates ironically the threat of being shot by his gunman if they didn't get what they wanted from him.

"You always have to keep customers happy," says Jayawardena.

When Jayawardena had the managerial position at a hotel, he thought of his staff's needs.

"Your staff adds character to your hotel," says Jayawardena.

He asked his staff what they wanted to see done for the hotel in a three-year span. He received 2,004 responses. He had his staff sift through them. Thirty-nine projects were chosen to begin within that year. These requests were all within budget also.

When Jayawardena worked at The Jamaican Pegasus, he met Cuban President Fidel Castro.

"I wouldn't have met these great people, if I hadn't gone into this industry," he says.

Because Castro was pleased with the service at the hotel and Jayawarden's attendance, he gave him a gift with thanks in a card along with two boxes of Cuban cigars.

In the college seminar, Jayawardena informed the students of the different categories of hospitality and tourism managers. These include local, which is your country and the local area. National is your country but different areas. Regional is your country and neighbouring countries, and international is different parts of the world.

"You should pick which one is right for you," says Jayawardena.

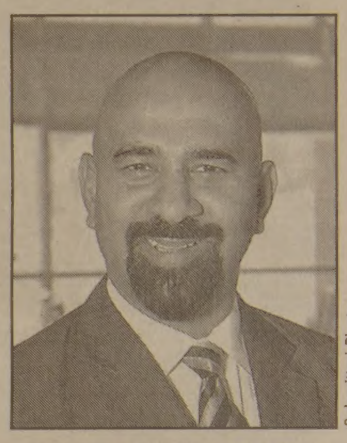
To be a manager, Jayawardena says that you need common sense in recruitment, intelligence, both emotional and physical, training and development, communication, motivation theories and personality.

To get into the personality part of the seminar, Jayawardena relates everyone to a specific shape, and with that shape comes your personality type.

If you are a circle, you are labeled a softie. A softie is someone who is fashionable, walks fast, has happy smiling eyes, a cheerful and polite speech, friendly meetings, active gestures and is emotional. Sexually a softie is said to be very passionate.

If you are a triangle, you are labeled as a perfectie. A perfectie is someone who is neat and wears matching clothes, walks carefully, does not get distracted and has meetings on time. Sexually a perfectie are said to be very scheduled.

If you are a square, you are labeled a toughie. A toughie is someone who is old fashioned, walks slowly, has a cold, straight look, has no gestures, is suspicious of others, hates crowds and daydreams. Sexually a toughie is said to be very secretive, but have a hidden desire.



Submitted Photo

CHANDI JAYAWARDENA

Last, if you are a spiral, you are labeled a puzzlie. A puzzlie type is someone who is clumsy, walks in different directions, gets distracted, has meetings without an agenda, has a crowded desk, makes irrelevant gestures and is practical, creative and funny. A puzzlie is interested in sex anywhere at anytime.

"You need to understand different personalities of the people who you are close to, like a boyfriend, wife or friend."

"These are all tools for improving," says Jayawardena.

MSN expanding our methods of communication

By LIAM McPHERSON
Staff Writer

MSN is becoming one of the most popular forms of communication. All you need is the Internet and you're good to go. Well, that and going to *www.msn.com* and downloading MSN Messenger.

The newest version is 7.5, but you can be stuck with a version five to six times under it.

The differences include a lot of emoticons and winks, which are extra features that brighten up the graphics and add a sense of humour.

The best use for MSN is to talk to your family and friends without the pesky telephone bills, not to mention to be able to talk to more than two people about different things with instant messages.

Amy Demeuleneare, 19, a first-year student of the Correctional Worker program, said, "I have a close relationship with my family and friends back home, and it's easy to keep in touch with them using MSN."

With MSN though, you can never really tell the message's tone or the nuances of meanings.

Andre Sauve, 19, a second-year student in the Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film program, said, "Girls say a lot of bullsh** on MSN that's not true at all, but when they're face to face with you they act like a completely different person. Now that's f***ed up."

That is, unless you have a web cam and you're both looking at each other while you're typing. Most often only the fanatics of MSN have that.

Some MSN patrons set up their own little dating service and hookup network. That is if you are meeting the right people and typing the right things.

Karriem Sharrief, 20, a second-year General Arts and Science program student, said, "MSN is the greatest method of getting laid that I've ever come across in my life. Oh, and I can use it to ask my parents for more money too! (Laughs) You know, for condoms and booze."

MSN can be beneficial for academic or job-related assignments as you can search many yellow pages and business numbers for any enquiries you may have.

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Scholarships
Scholarships are available each year for students of Niagara and other Ontario College articulation partner institutions. Applications must be sent to KOM by 1 October for study in February the following year, or by 1 March for study in July. Selection criteria will include academic merit, demonstrated leadership and personal character.

A Griffith representative will be available to discuss study opportunities.
Please contact KOM for further information, details and an application form.

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Photo by Ariel Elliott

Entertainment

What's going on in Niagara?

Local teens plan to start touring

College web megazine visits college radio

Trailer Park Boys grace Welland

Trailer Park Boys visit After Hours pub

By JAYLENE POIRIER
Staff Writer

After Hours pub was proud to present the Trailer Park Boys, Randy and Mr. Lahey, on Jan. 24.

With a packed bar, Randy and Lahey, played by Patrick Roach and John Dunsworth, went through a series of skits, contests and, of course, an autograph session after the show.

Buttman and Buttboy was one of the popular skits by the Trailer Park Boys that night. This skit is meant to mimic Batman and Robin, an animated cartoon series, and you can't forget the Buttcycle, or as some people might know it, the Batmobile.

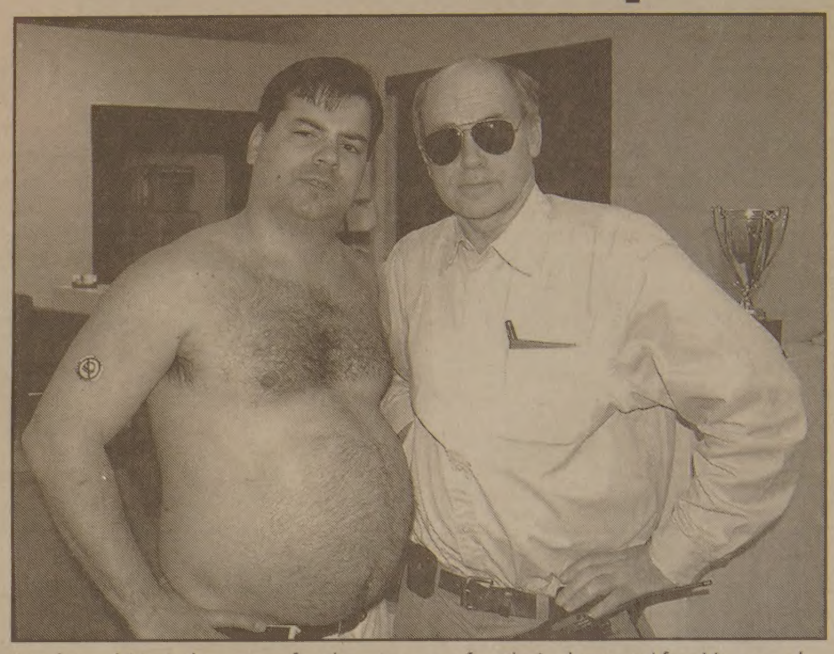
Throughout the night, Randy had become Santa, as Lahey barked in the background, and eventually led the crowd in a singing of *O Canada*. This ended with everyone giving a standing ovation and an all hands in the air.

Randy and Lahey sure know how to work a crowd, as a trivia contest came next. The contest was a series of questions about the previous television seasons of Trailer Park Boys. With six contestants in all, one gentleman, named Ben, came out on top, winning a Trailer Park Boys T-shirt.

Another contest to follow had the crowd in an uproar. It consisted of males and females going up on stage to see who could push their stomach out the farthest.

This contest had contestants of all sizes. Lahey did the measuring, and Randy wrote down the statistics. One particular contestant stood out from the crowd, measuring in with a 55-inch circumference.

Alex Fancy, 20, of Newmarket, Ont., studying in the Landscaping program, at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was the lucky winner.



Randy and Mr. Lahey pose for the camera after their show at After Hours pub.

Photo by Jaylene Poirier

Fancy says, "I have seen every episode, and I plan to travel to Halifax this summer, just to see the trailer park."

The trailer park, Sunnyvale, is actually located in Dartmouth, N.S.

Randy says, "It's really a beautiful trailer park. It overlooks the whole city. It's really a beautiful place."

"If it weren't for the Trailer Park Boys, I'd be nowhere," chimes in Fancy, who also won a T-shirt in the contest.

There were two designs of T-shirts being sold at the pub's front doors throughout the show, as well as two different hats. One of the T-shirts stated, "If you f*** with me ... you f*** with the whole park."

During the 45-minute autograph session, Nolan Hagar was lucky enough to be one of the people to meet Randy. Hagar, 15, attends Centennial High School, in Welland.

Hagar says he is a "big fan" and has seen "mostly every episode."

Randy and Lahey apologized for Bubbles not being able to be there as he is in Los Angeles with his fiancé, whom he proposed to right before Christmas.

The Trailer Park Boys thanked everyone for coming out to see them and said that you can look forward to the sixth season coming out beginning Easter weekend.

See Liam McPherson's exclusive interview with the Trailer Park Boys in the Feb. 10 edition.

Sever the Nile dreams big

By ARIEL ELLIOTT
Staff Writer

Bands from the Niagara region tend to have their own distinct sound.

Sever the Nile's Josh Hubert, 19, says his band's main influences are Swedish and European.

The band says they have been together for "about five months" and plan on "getting as far as possible."

Bryan Mason, 17, says the members chose the name Sever the Nile because "in Egypt, the Nile was their main source of water, and without it there would have been no life."

They have so far recorded one track and say they are going back to the studio to record more.

Even with wanting to record more, Mason says live shows are "a lot of fun and the best part is sweating."

Hubert says he enjoys playing live because of the "adrenaline rush."

Sever the Nile has played one show to date, but the members says that if they were to play to a larger venue, "guys with leather jackets, kids and 30-year-old metal heads" would be their audience.

"We want to make an impact," says Mason, "get signed and start touring."

The band has scheduled a few shows in March, noting it would like to play venues in Burlington and Cambridge, Ont.

"It's heavy over [in Cambridge]," says Mason.

The members say all they want is for people to check them out and tell them what they think.

You can visit Sever the Nile's site and listen to them at www.myspace.com/severthenile.

Bryan Mason and Josh Hubert, of Sever the Nile.

Photo by Ariel Elliott

noise@niagara debuts on The New Heat 90.1 FM

By KATHERINE GRIGGS
Staff Writer

On Jan. 17 a new radio show aired on Niagara College's radio station, The New Heat 90.1 FM.

Noise on Air, a show based on the web magazine *noise@niagara*, launched its first show, which broadcasts songs from the two-disc completion CD.

Show co-hosts are Andrew Zuber, a second year Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film student, who is majoring in the presentation field of the program, and Sandor Ligetfalvy, an Interactive Multimedia (Graduate Certificate) student and graduate of the Journalism-Print program, all at the college.

Ligetfalvy approached Zuber with the idea last semester.

"I thought it was a really good idea to give local bands a chance to gain exposure," said Zuber.

Showcasing a wide variety of music, from soft jazz to hardcore rap, each week's show will have a different focus, giving listeners a variety.

Since Ligetfalvy has never been on air before, except for a guest spot on a previous college radio show, Zuber is handling a large part of the technical aspects.

Zuber also has two other radio shows that will be premiering soon the details of which are yet to be announced.

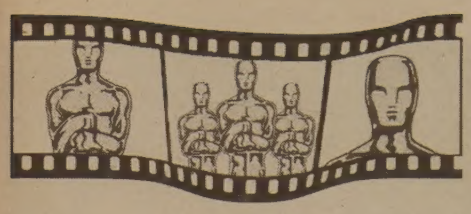
"On the first show I was blown out of my seat by Andrew's talent," said Ligetfalvy.

Being a graduate of the Journalism-Print program, Ligetfalvy was able to use his interviewing skills to interview the bands. The radio, however, requires a lot more preparation time when doing the interview live.

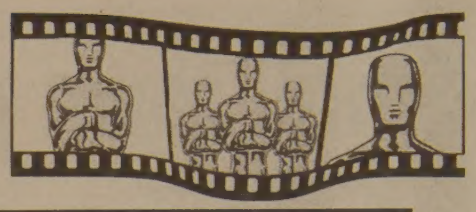
The bands are also "very excited" by the idea of having their songs getting some air time on the radio, said Ligetfalvy.

You can catch Noise on Air live every Tuesday from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The show is also looking for people interested in doing band interviews. Contact information should be sent to noiseatniagara@hotmail.com.



All about Oscar



Glitz, glamour – it's The Academy Awards

By NATALIE VENTRESCA
Staff Writer

Forget tall, dark and handsome.

He's 78 years old, bald, stands 13 1/2 inches tall, weighs only 8 1/2 pounds, yet everyone in Hollywood wants him.

His name is Oscar and on March 5, as many as 24 lucky individuals will be taking him home.

In its 78th year, the Academy Awards telecast is recognized not only within the industry, but throughout the world as the most prestigious award show. Today, it is watched by millions of people in over 100 countries.

The Oscar statues at the Academy Awards are presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, "a professional organization composed of over 65,000 filmmakers who have reached the top of their craft."

Membership is by invitation only and limited to those who have made a distinguishing mark in motion pictures. It is these members who vote for the nominees in each category. However, the Academy members themselves do not know how many awards will be handed out until the envelopes are opened during the telecast. Once the Academy votes, the accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers tabulates them and ensures their secrecy until that evening.

Although the telecast might be scripted, the announcing of the winners is one of the few unpredictable elements of the show. Will there be a tie? You'll have to tune in to find out.

In addition to recognizing achievement, the purpose of this organization and the award show is to advance the arts and sciences in film, encourage co-operation among individuals in the industry and create a dialogue between the professional community and the public through educational and cultural progress.

Today, the Academy Awards, held in the massive Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, Calif., is typically regarded as all glitz and glamour, a night when all the stars are wearing blinding, million-dollar designer jewelry and clothes.

When the awards were first handed out in 1929, when movies had just begun to have sound, the night consisted of a semi-intimate banquet held in the Blossom Room of the Hollywood Roosevelt Hotel, where 250 guests were treated to an evening of dinner and dancing.

As attendance grew over the years, starting in 1942, this banquet-style award show began to be held in various theatres.

Also quite different from today when winners are revealed on the evening is that until 1940 the winners were announced months prior.

The 1940s was a time of many changes for this show. Not only did the venue and the way they announced the winners change, but also the show was broadcast overseas by radio for the first time.

In 1952, people sitting at home could be part of the awards, as the 25th Academy Awards was televised for the first time. Previously off limits to "common folk," the chance to see the celebrities, their outfits, their reactions and their dates for the evening, rather than reading about it the newspapers or hearing it on the radio, was brought to the TV audience.

Today, the Academy Awards is a can't-miss event. It has unquestionably taken on a life of its own. There is not only a pre-show, when celebrities are asked, "Are you nervous?" "Who are you wearing?" "How does it feel to be nominated?" but also a post-show, when they again are asked stock questions like "How do you feel?" "How are you going to celebrate?" "What was going through your mind?" and perhaps the most important question of all, "Where are you going to put your Oscar?"

Much has changed. The media focus has shifted. The media now concentrate on the idea of competition, celebrity and fashion. The focus should remain where the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences intended it to be: on the idea of celebrating motion pictures.

Once the filmmakers and actors have entered the theatre, where the bright flashes of the camera and the annoying media correspondents and personalities asking repetitive questions have disappeared, it becomes clear what this award shows is about when the words "and the winner is ..." are uttered and tearful speeches follow.

The Academy Awards airs March 5, hosted by Jon Stewart.

'The nominees are ...'

Before we hear "And the winner is" on March 5, we must first hear "And the nominees are," so here are some of the major categories' nominees announced on Jan. 31.

Best Picture
- Brokeback Mountain
- Capote
- Crash
- Good Night, and Good Luck
- Munich

Best Director
- Ang Lee, Brokeback Mountain
- Bennett Miller, Capote
- Paul Haggis, Crash
- George Clooney, Good Night, and Good Luck
- Steven Spielberg, Munich

Best Actor in a Leading Role
- Philip Seymour Hoffman, Capote
- Terrence Howard, Hustle & Flow
- Heath Ledger, Brokeback Mountain
- Joaquin Phoenix, Walk the Line
- David Strathairn, Good Night, and Good Luck

Best Actor in a Supporting Role
- George Clooney, Syriana
- Matt Dillon, Crash
- Paul Giamatti, Cinderella Man
- Jake Gyllenhaal, Brokeback Mountain
- William Hurt, A History of Violence

Best Actress in a Leading Role
- Judi Dench, Mrs. Henderson Presents
- Felicity Huffman, Transamerica
- Keira Knightly, Pride & Prejudice
- Charlize Theron, North Country
- Reese Witherspoon, Walk the Line

Best Actress in a Supporting Role
- Amy Adams, Junebug
- Catherine Keener, Capote
- Rachel Weisz, The Constant Gardener
- Michelle Williams, Brokeback Mountain

Best Song
- *In the Deep*, from Crash
- *It's Hard Out There For a Pimp*, from Hustle & Flow
- *Travelin' Thru*, from Transamerica

Best Adapted Screenplay
- Brokeback Mountain
- Capote
- The Constant Gardener
- A History of Violence
- Munich

Best Original Screenplay
- Crash
- Good Night, and Good Luck
- Match Point
- The Squid and the Whale
- Syriana

'And the winner is ...' Top 10 Best Picture Winners

By NATALIE VENTRESCA
Staff Writer

They make us laugh and they make us cry.

Some even make us scared or want to sing along.

Movies have the ability to touch our lives in numerous ways, and the Academy Awards celebrates this.

Although the films nominated in the Best Picture category have been chosen because of their quality and excellence, there can only be one winner, and since there can only be 10 in this list, here are the most memorable Best Picture winners throughout Academy history.

10 Gone with the Wind (1939, Victor Fleming)
This is one movie that has stood the test of time. Considered by some as the most enduring and popular film of all time, this is an epic love story set in the civil war era about Scarlett O'Hara, a spoiled, selfish woman involved in a turbulent love affair with the dashing Rhett Butler.

9 Titanic (1997, James Cameron)
Romance, disaster and tragedy – all the ingredients for a tear-jerker. That's what viewers discovered when Titanic was released and presented with its Best Picture award in 1997. Although viewers knew the fate of the real-life, ill-fated voyage, what was not expected was how deeply moving the romance between the characters would be.

8 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest (1975, Milos Foman)
What would you do to stay out of jail? Fake insanity? That's what Randle P. McMurphy (Jack Nicholson) does in this funny yet moving film. About rebellion, oppression, self-expression and freedom, it is regarded by many critics as a wonderfully powerful and effective film.

7 American Beauty (1999, Sam Mendes)
American Beauty looks at what really happens within a seemingly perfect suburban family. With a father infatuated with his teenaged daughter's friend and mother having an affair with her real-estate rival, this film humourously and provocatively looks at the unravelling of their marriage and lives.

6 On the Waterfront (1954, Elia Kazan)
Just the fact that Marlon Brando stars in On the Waterfront should signals this film's greatness. With his powerful performance of the former fighter Terry Malloy, Brando truly makes the viewer identify and sympathize with his character, who is desperately attempting to fight corruption.

5 Chicago (2002, Rob Marshall)
Singing, dancing, adultery, murder and sequins. What more can you ask for in a musical? This stylish movie, based on the play of the same name, dazzles audiences with its outstanding cast, music, choreography and costumes. If you've never seen a musical before, make this your first.

4 Midnight Cowboy (1969, John Schlesinger)
With nudity and content that was shocking for its time, Midnight Cowboy was the first and only film with an X-rating to have ever won an Academy Award for Best Picture. This charming and poignant film tells the story of a naïve hustler from Texas who thinks he can find his fortune in New York by becoming a high-paid gigolo. While the wealth he desires eludes him, he does befriend and form a bond with a sleazy con man.

3 The Silence of the Lambs (1991, Jonathan Demme)
To stop one psychopathic killer, FBI agent Clarice Starling enlists the help of another in Dr. Hannibal Lecter. This thriller follows not only Starling's case, but the relationship between the agent and prisoner that leads her to confront not only her own demons but her elusive killer himself. With the right cast and tone, this film is one that remains memorable. Now, if I could only say the same for the sequel.

2 Forrest Gump (1994, Robert Zemeckis)
Although Forest Gump has spawned some of the most memorable movie quotes of all time, such as "Run, Forest, run," its story also touched many hearts. The story follows a man of a lower I.Q. who by chance happens to be present or had a part in many historical moments, yet does not understand or appreciate the significance of them. All he longs for is the love of his childhood friend Jenny.

1 The Godfather/The Godfather Part II (1972, 1974, Francis Ford Coppola)
Look past the violence and at the heart of these two Oscar-winning gangster movies to find the themes of patriarchy, family, honour, tradition and duty. These films are great movies about family. The family just happens to be involved in organized crime.

Small town presents 42nd Street

By CHERIE BORHO
Staff Writer

The Niagara region premier of 42nd Street is the Port Colborne Society's annual musical this season.

42nd Street is a musical set in 1933. It begins with auditions for a Broadway show, in which Peggy Sawyer is late, and the director hates tardiness. She gets a second chance after her first rejection. The plot is all about the struggle to remain part of the musical after Peggy is fired and then re-hired as the lead role.

"[It's a] true musical comedy," says Business Manager Bette Kalailieff, of Port Colborne, "a Cinderella story."

"You can sit back and kick up your legs and just enjoy," says Director Mary Parkes, 56, of Port Colborne. "[It's] foot-tapping entertainment, truly entertaining."

Parkes, a school teacher for the District School Board of Niagara, says she "loves" working on the musical. "It's been a great learning and enjoyable experience."

The cast includes about 40 members, including Ashley Armstrong as Peggy Sawyer, Barry Snider as Billy Lawlor, Stephanie Menicanin as Dorothy Brock and Jamie Mowat as Julian Marsh.

"When I think of a Broadway musical, the first thing that comes to my mind is 42nd Street," says Mowat, of Port Colborne. "Every time I see it, it gets better and better. It's going to be fantastic."

The society has been active for 60 years and is a non-profit organization that stages a production every year, and then returns all the proceeds to the community.

"I've seen them every year since I was a girl, and I've been in them," says Parkes. "The talent for such a small town is fantastic."

The society is hoping for this production to be more successful than any other play preformed in the past.

Kalailieff says they usually struggle to get males to take part, as well as young people to help with the technical parts, volunteers are always needed.

Next year, the society is planning to present Kiss Me Kate, but no contracts have been signed, says Kalailieff.

The opening for 42nd Street is Friday, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m., with repeat performances on Saturday, Feb. 18, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 19, at 2 p.m. in the auditorium at Lakeshore Catholic High School, on Janet Street in Port Colborne.

Lead role Ashley Armstrong, along with two of the other actresses, practice one of the scenes.

Photo by Cherie Borho

Ticket Information

Tickets are $16 a person.
For more information visit the website at www.geocities.com/pc_operatic/.

Local band's talent rocks the Hamilton music scene

By AMY ZULINIAK
Staff Writer

Rootsy Post-Un-Rock is the best way to describe the eclectic sound of Alive and Living.

Alive and Living is a Hamilton-based band headed by former frontman of Chore, Chris Bell.

Chore was a popular Canadian group in the 1990s and had several videos in rotation at MuchMusic. Shortly after the band split, Bell was in search of new members to form a band superior to his last. After an extended period of line-up changes, the band was finally complete. In January 2004 Alive and Living was born.

The group consists of Bell (lead guitar and vocals), Erin Aurich (violin and backup vocals), Kate Davies (piano and backup vocals), Adam Costantini (bass) and Jackson Hudecki, (drums).

Hudecki, 22, of Hamilton, Ont., says, "This is always a tough answer to give when referring to how a band sounds. You can base it on what you personally think as a musician, what people tell you as the musician or what critics have said.

"Having two females playing such eclectic instruments [as well as singing] adds more of a rich, textural sound to songs that could sound dull without them. We have been described as 'Rootsy Post-Unrock.' Roots meaning more folky and technical, while post-unrock means something like a new form of what rock 'n' roll has become, but definitely rootsy and folky, while still sounding upbeat and driving."

Hamilton is a city rich in musical talent. Alive and Living credits its sound to many influences, local and otherwise.

"Each member has different influences, which show in our music from time to time. Jackson and Erin listen to a lot of the Rheostatics, Pedro the Lion, Shudder to Think, Lou Barlow, The Posies and Sufjan Stevens. Kate likes a lot of the same, but add some Bjork and Tom Waits to the mix. Adam and I are really into a lot of Canadian independent bands like Wintersleep, Contrived, the Constantines, Jon Epworth, Chore and Kary, mixing in some Queens of the Stone Age, Converge, Refused and Hoosier Poet," says Bell, 25, of Hamilton, Ont.

"A lot of those bands have reached a point in their musicianship that could inspire anyone, especially other musicians. Their music, their sound, their general actions in the business help motivate bands like ours to keep doing what we're doing, and eventually we'll reach our goals," says Aurich, 24, of Hamilton, Ont.

The band can be seen regularly in Hamilton at The Casbah, The Pepperjack Café and The Underground. They play venues in St. Catharines such as The Mansion House and Level 3.

They have also toured the East Coast three times and played shows in New Brunswick, Moncton, Halifax, New Glasgow, Yarmouth, Fredericton and Montreal.

"You try to leave people anticipating, and wanting more, and playing frequently could lead to a lack of support, and less people at shows," says Hudecki.

"We get a great response when we play, and more people seem to show up each time we play a city. Ages range from 19 to 60. People could throw it on at a party while my grandma could listen to the record while she has company over for tea. The live show is a lot more loud, and our new material would appeal to people ages 19 to 35. Basically anyone could listen to it, and it would be up to them if they enjoyed it or not."

As an unsigned band, a regular paycheque is out of the question. They look for door deals. That means the band gets whatever people pay as a cover charge when they come to the show. It could be $50, it could be $37, it could be $200 or it could be $500 or $1,000. It all depends on what is worked out with the booker/promoter before playing the club.

"When we go on tour, we try to arrange beforehand how much we'll make, and we usually ask between $150 and $200 so we can keep gas in our tank, and places to sleep [hotels, sometimes meals]," says Davies, 22, of Hamilton, Ont.

Alive and Living has a bright future ahead. The band is quickly gaining popularity in Hamilton as well as in other parts of Canada. The members are recording their second album and are about to sign with Sonic Unyon. They will begin their fourth tour in May, returning to Hamilton in July.

The first EP, recorded in 2004, as well as T-shirts, buttons and show posters, ares for sale at www.aliveandliving.net. More information and sample tracks are available at www.myspace.com/aliveandliving.

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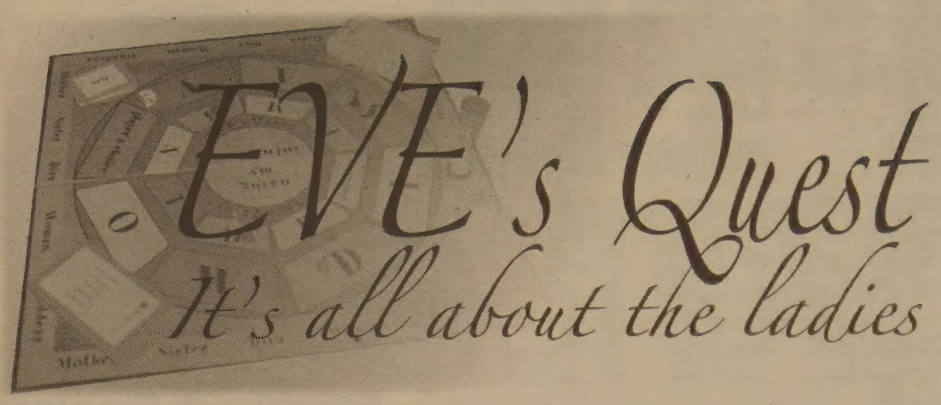


EVE's Quest
It's all about the ladies

EVE's Quest board game creators are Odette McCarthy (left) and Joanna Broadhurst.

Submitted photo

By JENNIFER GIBBONS
Staff Writer

Women's achievements are no longer on the back burner in the board game industry.

EVE's Quest is that liberator.

It's a board game based on women achievements, history, pop culture, products and literature.

It has recently been released to Chapters and Indigo bookstores.

The two creators, Joanna Broadhurst and Odette McCarthy, from Montreal, said that while the game is Canadian, there is plenty of U.S. and international content as well.

The pair has known each other for over 10 years, said Broadhurst.

"We've been friends for a long time."

While reading an article on the Trivial Pursuit board game, creators Broadhurst noticed that there wasn't a game based on women, although, she said, laughing, there are about the Bible, sports and just about every other topic. She was surprised and disappointed, so in the late 1990s the idea for a women's trivia game was born.

"At that time, the idea seemed overwhelming for only one person on their own to tackle."

While on maternity leave from her job as a social worker, Broadhurst approached her friend McCarthy, also on maternity leave from her job as a program co-ordinator in international development, about the idea and the arrangement was created.

Innovators and charity are now working hand-in-hand as the creators are donating $2 from every game sold to the Canadian Breast Cancer Foundation.

Asked about that aspect, Broadhurst said community involvement is "a big deal" to her and her partner. They had that idea of donating from the beginning.

"We wanted to create a business that wasn't just about the bottom line."

Since it is a women's trivia game, they wanted some of the profits to support and touch women throughout Canada.

They made the commitment although there hasn't been profit yet.

Both women work in community-based jobs.

As for the game's development, Broadhurst said several months of research were needed before they could fully commit to the venture.

"First, we had to make sure someone hadn't done this already."

They then had to travel for six months and raise enough money to do it.

They journeyed to a toy fair in New York City, with their eight-month-old babies in arm, to see what type of games were being promoted.

"We had to breastfeed our babies in the hallway and take turns looking around the toy fair."

They had a year of research on the game content, said Broadhurst. It was only the two of them involved in the whole process.

They also managed to keep their families first in their priorities, work full time and spend free time on the game.

"We did it at a pace we were able to."

Right now they are their own distributors.

"We did this on purpose. We wanted to see how far we could get on our own, get our feet wet a little."

The game was released Oct. 1, 2005.

"We set objectives for ourselves for the Christmas season, and we surpassed them."

"People have been calling us and are thrilled about the idea," said Broadhurst.

"The game has taken on a life of its own. It's very exciting."

Broadhurst and McCarthy do all the advertising. They have a media consultant for help with the media releases.

Both are extremely proud.

"To have an idea, go after it and realize it is amazing."

The hardest part, said Broadhurst, was deciding to try to do the idea.

Broadhurst said each of the pair complements the other's strengths and weaknesses.

Asked to describe the game in one word, Broadhurst exclaims "celebration."

"It's a fun game that doesn't put down men. We wanted men to be able to play this along with women."

Laughing, Broadhurst said she wishes she could play the game herself, but it would be an unfair advantage as she made up the questions.

The object is to earn enough letters to spell out one of the five titles: Mother, Sister, Diva, Woman or Goddess. You earn these letters by performing charades, singing, drawing, playing intuition challenges and answering trivia questions.

You must work your way around the board and achieve the letter you need. Once you have earned all the letters you need for your title, you move into the centre of the board. You must then have your opponents answer a question on paper and you must use your "sixth sense" to guess what answers belong to which opponent(s). If you answer incorrectly you must wait another turn. If you answer correctly, you are crowned the title you have spelt.

The number of players is two to six or it can be played in teams.

The online cost of the game is $39.99 and it can be bought through the website or from Chapters and Indigo bookstores.

"This is a positive and celebratory game."

For more information about EVE's Quest, visit the website at www.evesquest.com.

Game was 'enjoyable'

By JENNIFER GIBBONS
Staff Writer
Board Game Review

Women's history has finally been immortalized in a board game.

All the great male writers, athletes, artists and leaders have had their time to shine in one board game or another. It's about time there is one dedicated specifically to women's achievements.

EVE's Quest is a trivia game based on women's history, achievements and artists.

I sat down to play this game with my two roommates on a Sunday afternoon.

The object is to earn enough letters to spell out one of the five titles: Mother, Sister, Diva, Woman or Goddess. You earn these letters by performing charades, singing, drawing, playing intuition challenges and answering trivia questions.

You must work your way around the board and achieve the letter you need. Once you have earned all the letters you need for your title, you move into the centre of the board. You must then have your opponents answer a question on paper and you must use your "sixth sense" to guess what answers belong to which opponent(s). If you answer incorrectly, you must wait another turn. If you answer correctly, you are crowned with the title you have spelt.

We started reading the instructions out loud. I read them first and then my roommate also read them aloud. The instructions were difficult to understand at the beginning. We referred to them once or twice while we were playing.

Sabrina Farmer, 19, said she "hardly played" board games while growing up and she never plays them now unless her roommates bug her.

"There are a lot of complex rules that should be simplified for people who don't usually play board games," said Farmer.

I feel differently, as the rules were not complex for people used to deciphering board game rules.

The second time around, the game's rules made sense and the game was easy to play.

For Mallorie Dawe, 19, who played board games growing up, playing a new one is fun.

"I enjoy playing new and different types of board games."

Farmer said she found the game hard, as the trivia questions were difficult.

"I seemed to know the answers for only the other player's questions, but not my own."

Dawe agreed with Farmer when it came to the trivia.

"It was hard only for the reason that I don't know much about women's history, so I couldn't get the answer right."

On the other hand, I found the trivia not as difficult as my roommates did. I knew more of the answers and was right on more occasions. However, I was surprised to know that I didn't know as much as I had thought.

Both players found the game interesting, stating it gave them a chance to learn more about women's history.

I agree. Women's history needs to be promoted. A board game gives it the perfect opportunity.

Dawe said that this game gives people who don't know much about women's history a chance to learn through a "fun concept."

Dawe thinks the board game would sell well as long as the name is promoted heavily.

The board game was just released to Chapters, Indigo bookstores and will be presented at the Annual Canadian Toy Fair and the New York toy fair.

Dawe and Farmer said they would play the game again.

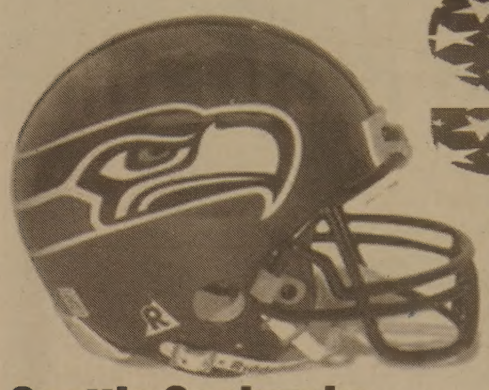
"The drawing and singing cards got everyone involved and made me laugh at my roommates," said Farmer.

Dawe added, "It was fun and I learned a little while doing it."

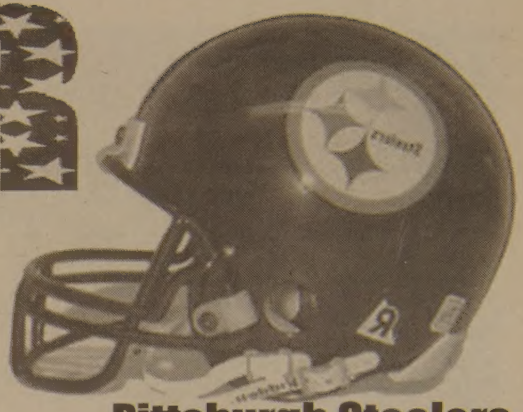
The overall game was enjoyable and inventive.

I'm glad I was able to be one of the first to try an all-about-women board game created by Canadian women.

This, of course, is maybe because I won both times when we played the game.



SUPER BOWL XL



Seattle Seahawks — **Pittsburgh Steelers**

Writer picks Seattle

Paul Frosina
Columnist

The stage is set for Super Bowl XL from Detroit, Mich., between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Seattle Seahawks, and it's shaping up to be a classic.

Two months ago, the National Football League's (NFL) Steelers lost in Cincinnati, a loss that gave the Bengals the American Football Conference (AFC) North Division Title and put the Steelers in serious jeopardy of missing the playoffs.

Four wins in a row later, Pittsburgh was able to secure the final AFC Wildcard spot and the sixth seed in the playoffs.

Three straight playoff road victories later, in which they defeated the top three teams in the AFC (Cincinnati Bengals, Indianapolis Colts, Denver Broncos), the Steelers are headed back to the Super Bowl for the first time in 10 years.

Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger has been on his game throughout the playoffs, helping the Steelers' offence score 86 points in three playoff games, an average of 28 points a game. The Pittsburgh defence has been just as good, allowing 52 points in three games, an average of 17 points a game.

The Seahawks' road to Detroit differs from the Steelers'.

Seattle has the most points scored of any team in the NFL this season and has the league's most valuable player in Shaun Alexander at running back, not to mention Pro Bowl quarterback Matt Hasselbeck.

After starting the season with a 2-2 record, Seattle won 11 straight games and finished the season 13-3 at the top of the National Football Conference (NFC).

After a first round bye, the Seahawks defeated the offenceless Washington Redskins in the Divisional Playoffs and the Carolina Panthers in the Conference Championship, both with relative ease.

Seattle has scored a total of 54 points in two playoff games, an average of 27 points per game, and held opponents to an average of 12 points per game.

With both teams clicking on offence and defence, it's hard to pick a clear-cut winner. However, there are a lot of X factors that will come into play on Sunday.

Both teams have a potent running game, which will give the defensive co-ordinators on both sides headaches.

Alexander has the ability to be a power back who cab drive through piles at the line of scrimmage and a speed back, making him a threat in the open field.

The key for Pittsburgh's defence will be to stop Alexander in the backfield and clog all gaps at the line of scrimmage. This will force Alexander to run outside, where the Steelers' speed at linebacker can track him down and allow minimal yardage. If Pittsburgh has trouble doing so, you can bet Seattle will have a field day on the ground.

The Steelers' running game will focus around Jerome Bettis, who is likely playing in the final game of his 13-year career, and Willie Parker. Both have different styles of running, which the Seahawks' defence will have to prepare for.

Bettis is a power back used to gaining the tough yards on third and short. On the flip side of the coin, Parker is a speed back, who great in the open field and able to find gaps at the line of scrimmage. I wouldn't be surprised to see Pittsburgh use Bettis early in the game to wear down the Seattle front seven and insert Parker later in the game to run wild.

Seattle has to hold Bettis and Parker to short gains on first and second down to put Pittsburgh in third and long situations and force Roethlisberger to pass more often.

Roethlisberger and Hasselbeck have shown that they have the potential to move the football down the field through the air and put points on the board. Roethlisberger has shown throughout the playoffs that he has what it takes to win the big games. If he can move the ball effectively, it will be a long day for the Seattle's defence.

For Hasselbeck to be successful, he will need to produce long drives that generate points. The longer the Pittsburgh defence is on the field, the better the Seahawks' chances are of winning.

Speaking of defence, that is precisely what this game will come down to: who bends, but doesn't break.

The Steelers look to have the edge on defence with Joey Porter and James Farrior at linebacker and playoff standout Troy Polamalu at safety, but don't overlook the Seahawk defence.

Although Seattle's defensive secondaries are young, they have proved to be effective all season long. They have a veteran presence upfront with Grant Wistrom, who could cause problems for Roethlisberger if he gets free.

The game plan for both teams will be to produce consistent, long, point-generating drives, which will keep their respective defences off the field.

A pool taken throughout Niagara College has 71 per cent of the students and teachers picking Pittsburgh over Seattle.

"I think the Steelers will win because they have won three huge games to get to this point and I can't see them losing now," says John Peckham, 21, of Burlington, Ont.

Some students believe the Seahawks have a good chance as well.

"I'm not sure if they (Seattle) are going to win. It would be good because they are the underdogs and it's their first time in the Super Bowl," says Rebecca Greenlaw, 20, of Aylmer, Ont.

Other students believe that the Seahawks should be favoured in this game because of their outstanding play throughout the season.

"Seattle's offence has been on a roll all season. They have [Shaun] Alexander, who is the MVP this seaso,n and a defence that has been dominant. The bus [Jerome Bettis] will be stopped on Sunday," says Dakota Bennett, 20, of Fort Erie, Ont.

As for me, I'm picking Seattle to win 34-31 on a last second field goal by Josh Brown.

As much as I would like to see Steelers head coach Bill Cowher and Detroit native Jerome Bettis win a Super Bowl, I can't see Seattle losing this game.

Either way it should be an entertaining game Sunday, one that people will be talking about until training camp next September.

Enjoy the game.

No clear favourite

Mike McClymont
Columnist

Last year's Super Bowl pitted the New England Patriots against the Philadelphia Eagles, two young, up-and-coming teams and clear fan favourites. At this time last year, you couldn't walk down the street without seeing a Tom Brady, Donovan McNabb or Terrell Owens jersey.

With professional hockey on hiatus, Canadian sports fans needed a quick sports fix and immediately jumped on the bandwagon of the three fresh-faced National Football League (NFL) superstars. No, you couldn't blame them. All three stars were among the best at their positions, and both teams were undisputed leaders of their respective conferences.

That brings us to this year. In the NFL's 40th Super Bowl, the Pittsburgh Steelers are matched up with the Seattle Seahawks. This year's championship game has considerably less fanfare and star quality. To the casual football fan, the Pittsburgh Steelers may not be the best team its conference has to offer. Yes, the sixth-seeded Steelers defeated the top three seeded teams to reach the Super Bowl. However, they did suffer five defeats in the regular season. Meanwhile, the Indianapolis Colts were 13-0 late in the season and suffered only two losses.

As for the Seattle Seahawks, they are the "best" team of a weak conference. Some Seahawk fans are still insecure of the title and may still be afraid to come out of the closet – not all of them though.

Brad Winters, 20, a first-year Broadcasting – Radio, Television and Film program student, has been a Seattle fan for the past three years. He is convinced the game "could be a blowout either way or a close game." His final score prediction is Seattle 28-25.

"Pittsburgh has a very well-balanced team. Their defence comes at you from different angles, but they have been beat before. We have a young defence, so it's important for them not to fall for the trick plays [coach] Bill Cowher is synonymous for."

Meaghan Harcombe, 18, a General Arts and Science program student, admits she doesn't really understand football, but she will watch it whenever it's on.

"I think Seattle will win. I just have an intuition."

Buffalo Bills' fan Matt Finkbeiner, 22, an Electrical Engineering Technology student, thinks Pittsburgh will win because they've been "playing inspired football."

"[Pittsburgh Quarterback Ben] Roethlisberger doesn't look like a choke artist."

The fact of the matter is the Seahawks and Steelers are playing in the Super Bowl, and that automatically makes them the best of their respective conferences. They won the games that matter and they are the only two teams still playing football. Though you may not yet see Shaun Alexander and Ben Roethlisberger jerseys surface on campus, you just might after this weekend.

Pharmacy Technician program student Lindsey Southcott, 23, says she is looking forward to grabbing a group of friends and having a good time watching the game at a bar where fans can win free prizes.

"I don't normally watch football, but I watch the Super Bowl."

The NFC Super Bowl representative carousel may continue to turn after the Seahawks make their first-ever appearance in the big game, and the Steelers may not be able to create a dynasty the way last year's Patriots did. Nevertheless, die-hard and casual fans should expect an exciting Super Bowl this year. Expect a hard-hitting affair and an example of old-fashioned football played the right away.

Super Bowl facts

- Super Bowl XXXIX had more viewers (133.7 million) than the 2004 Presidential election had voters.
- Big-screen TV sales increase fivefold during Super Bowl week.
- On Super Bowl Sunday an estimated 18, 500 tons of popcorn and chips are eaten.
- Nine of the 10 most-watched TV programs of all time are Super Bowls.
- Super Bowl fans attending the game will eat 5,000 pounds of hot dogs.

Durham College hosts star-studded affair

By JAYLENE POIRIER
Staff Writer

It was basketball's all-stars on the court for the men's and women's Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) action at Durham College in Oshawa on the Jan. 21 weekend.

Teams from the East and the West divisions competed in the 19th annual OCAA Basketball All-Star game.

Niagara College representatives from the women's West division were Abby Cass (game), Jessica James (three-point shootout) and Kaitlynn McKenna (game).

From the men's West division, it was Mike Muir (game, two-ball, three-point shootout) and Anderson St. Valle.

The festivities included a two-ball competition, the Spalding/T. Litzen three-point shootout competition, the eighth annual OCAA best mascot contest, and, of course, the main event, when the women and men from both divisions face off in a 40-minute basketball game.

Attending the All-Star game were two Team Canada representatives, who took the players through a skills practice.

Cass, 20, of Brantford, Ont., in her second year of the Recreation and Leisure Services program, said it was "very exhilarating" and that she "learned a lot."

Former OCAA announcer and present "Voice of the Toronto Raptors," Herbie Kuhn, was the official announcer for the game.

In action Cass contributed five points, which helped lead the West to a victory over the East, 74-58. Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the women's game was Jessica King, from Algoma University College, in Sault St. Marie.

King is a 5'10" forward studying sociology who averages 12.4 points per game (PPG).

The second MVP was Samantha McConnell, from Durham College, in Oshawa. McConnell, in Police Foundations, is a 5'5" guard and averages 12.7 PPG.

The coaches for the women's team from the East were Craig Andrews, from Durham College, and Marcy Skribe, from Seneca College, in Toronto.

From the West it was Denise Perrier, from Humber College in Toronto, and Phil Mosley, from Niagara College.

The current leading scorers in the overall division from the East are Natasha Thombs, Seneca College, with 19.8 PPG, and from the West, Susan Shaw-Davis, Mohawk College, in Hamilton, with 16.1 PPG.

In the men's division, the East came out on top with a score of 111-108.

Muir, 21, of Parkhill, Ont., in his second year of Police Foundations, says, "The game was exciting to play in.

"It's not every day that you get the opportunity to play in an All-Star game. It was a fun atmosphere.

"It's nice to play with the other All-Stars because during the season we go so hard at each other, that it's nice to laugh, smile and joke around with them — although as soon as the game was over, it's back to business, and winning is top priority."

Muir contributed 16 points to the final score.

MVPs of the men's game were B.J. Charles, from Algonquin College, in Ottawa, and Pat Sewell from Fanshawe College, in London.

Charles is a 6-foot guard in the General Arts and Sciences program (GAS), averaging 18.5 PPG. Sewell is a 6'3" forward in the Construction program and is averaging 20.4 PPG.

The coaches for the East were Peter Gordon from Durham College and Barry Smith from St. Lawrence College in Kingston.

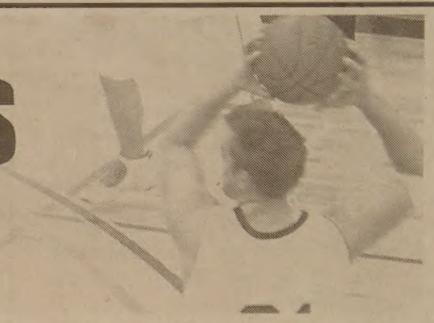
From the West it was Darrell Glenn, from Humber College, and Steve Pepper from Lambton College, in Sarnia.

The leading scorers in the overall division from the West were Jean Louis Ouattara, from Sault St. Marie College, with 23.8 PPG and from the East, Neil O'Sullivan, from Fleming College in Peterborough, with 22.2 PPG.

For more information on the players or teams, visit the official OCAA website, www.ocaa.com, or come out to a game and try to win the OCAA Spalding Shoot for Cash at the halftime of every game for a possible $5,000.

OCAA STANDINGS

Volleyball and Basketball



Men's Volleyball

Team	Gp	W	L	GW	GL	+/-	Pts
Central East							
Durham	10	10	0	30	4	26	20
Georgian	11	7	4	28	15	13	14
Seneca	10	5	5	20	18	2	10
Boreal	11	3	8	13	25	-12	6
Cambrian	10	2	8	11	25	-14	4
Central West Division							
Mohawk	11	11	0	33	4	29	22
Nipissing	9	6	3	18	14	4	12
Humber	9	3	6	12	18	-6	6
Canadore	9	2	7	8	21	-13	4
Sheridan	10	1	9	5	27	-22	2
East Division							
Loyalist	12	9	3	28	19	9	18
Algonquin	10	9	1	27	10	17	18
Trent	10	4	6	13	26	-13	8
La Cite	10	3	7	19	22	-3	6
Fleming P	10	0	10	5	30	-25	0
West Division							
Fanshawe	10	9	1	28	7	21	18
Niagara	***11***	***7***	***4***	***25***	***14***	***11***	***14***
Redeemer	9	6	3	21	11	10	12
St. Clair	11	5	6	19	21	-2	10
G. Brown	11	0	11	1	33	-32	0

Women's Volleyball

Team	Gp	W	L	GW	GL	+/-	Pts
Central East Division							
Seneca	10	8	2	27	11	16	16
Georgian	11	8	3	27	17	10	16
Durham	10	8	2	26	12	14	16
Cambrian	10	7	3	25	12	13	14
Boreal	11	0	11	3	33	-30	0
Central West Division							
Humber	10	10	0	30	3	27	20
Nipissing	10	9	1	28	3	25	18
Mohawk	12	7	5	25	16	9	14
Sheridan	11	3	8	13	26	-13	6
Canadore	10	0	10	3	30	27	0
East Division							
Algonquin	10	7	3	23	13	10	14
Trent	10	6	4	20	18	2	12
Loyalist	12	4	8	18	25	-7	8
La Cite	10	2	8	7	26	-19	4
Fleming P	10	2	8	15	24	-9	4
West Division							
Fanshawe	12	9	3	29	13	16	18
Niagara	***12***	***9***	***3***	***27***	***16***	***11***	***18***
Redeemer	10	7	3	22	14	8	14
St. Clair	13	5	8	20	25	-5	10
Sault	12	2	10	11	31	-20	4
Lambton	12	1	11	4	35	-31	2

Men's Basketball

Team	Gp	W	L	Pf	Pa	+/-	Pts
Central Division							
Humber	10	9	1	831	655	176	18
Sheridan	9	7	2	708	654	54	14
Georgian	9	4	5	634	641	-7	8
G. Brown	10	4	6	679	737	-58	8
Seneca	10	2	8	688	768	-80	4
Centennial	8	2	6	569	654	-85	4
East Division							
St. Lawrence K	13	11	2	917	817	100	22
Algonquin	12	10	2	957	783	174	20
Durham	12	9	3	994	877	117	18
Fleming P	14	7	7	1008	955	53	14
Loyalist	12	4	8	740	823	-83	8
La Cite	13	2	11	815	936	-121	4
Cambrian	12	1	11	665	905	-240	2
West Division							
Fanshawe	10	8	2	776	654	122	16
St. Clair	10	7	3	797	677	120	14
Sault	9	7	2	726	607	119	14
Niagara	***10***	***7***	***3***	***753***	***697***	***56***	***14***
Mohawk	10	5	5	853	889	-36	10
Lambton	8	3	5	543	531	12	6
Redeemer	10	1	9	623	846	-223	2
Algoma	9	0	9	573	743	-170	0

Women's Basketball

Team	Gp	W	L	Pf	Pa	+/-	Pts
East Division							
Humber	11	11	0	808	470	338	22
Seneca	11	10	1	845	512	333	20
Algonquin	11	8	3	716	500	216	16
Durham	12	6	6	645	620	25	12
Georgian	8	4	4	476	521	-45	8
St. Lawrence K	11	3	8	527	551	-24	6
G. Brown	8	3	5	379	453	-74	6
Loyalist	11	2	9	529	659	-130	4
Fleming P	11	0	11	314	953	-639	0
West Division							
St. Clair	8	6	2	473	386	87	12
Fanshawe	8	6	2	458	394	64	12
Niagara	***8***	***5***	***3***	***476***	***392***	***84***	***10***
Sheridan	7	5	2	363	336	27	10
Mohawk	9	5	4	504	481	23	10
Redeemer	9	1	8	449	586	-137	2
Algoma	9	1	8	396	544	-148	2

news@niagara publishes next on Feb. 10, 2006

UPCOMING GAMES

Men's Volleyball Games

Feb. 4	Cambrian at Durham, 4 p.m.
	Nipissing at Sheridan, 7 p.m.
	Canadore at Humber, 8 p.m.
Feb. 5	Canadore at Sheridan, 1 p.m.
	Nipissing at Humber, 3 p.m.
Feb. 10	La Cite at Fleming P, 8 p.m.
	Algonquin at Trent. 8 p.m.
	Georgian at Boreal, 8 p.m.
	Redeemer at Canadore, 8 p.m.
	Humber at ***Niagara***, 8 p.m.
	Seneca at Cambrian, 9 p.m.

Men's Basketball Games

Feb. 3	Lambton at Sault, 7 p.m.
	Fleming P at St. Lawrence K, 7:30 p.m.
	Centennial at Seneca, 8 p.m.
	Algonquin at Durham, 8 p.m.
	Redeemer at Algoma, 8 p.m.
	Fanshawe at ***Niagara***, 8 p.m.
Feb. 4	Lambton at Algoma, 2 p.m.
	Redeemer at Sault, 2 p.m.
	Georgian at Sheridan, 6 p.m.
	Cambrian at Loyalist, 7 p.m.
Feb. 5	Cambrian at St. Lawrence K, 1 p.m.
	Durham at La Cite, 2 p.m.
Feb. 6	Georgian at George Brown, 8 p.m.

Women's Basketball Games

Feb. 3	Fleming P at St. Lawrence K, 5:30 p.m.
	Redeemer at Algoma, 6 p.m.
	George Brown at Durham, 6 p.m.
	Fanshawe at ***Niagara***, 6 p.m.
	Algonquin at Seneca, 6 p.m.
	Georgian at Loyalist, 7 p.m.
Feb. 4	Algonquin at George Brown, 2 p.m.
	Georgian at St. Lawrence K, 5:30 p.m.
Feb. 7	Durham at Loyalist, 6 p.m.
	Niagara at Sheridan, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 8	St. Clair at Fanshawe, 6 p.m.
	Humber at Georgian, 6 p.m.

Women's Volleyball Games

Feb. 3	Lambton at Sault, 9 p.m.
Feb. 4	Redeemer at Sault, noon
	Cambrian at Durham, 2 p.m.
	Nipissing at Sheridan, 5 p.m.
	Canadore at Humber, 6 p.m.
Feb. 5	Nipissing at Humber, 1 p.m.
	Canadore at Sheridan, 11 a.m.
Feb. 8	***Niagara*** at Lambton, 6 p.m.
	Fanshawe at St. Clair, 6 p.m.
Feb. 10	Georgian at Boreal, 6 p.m.
	Redeemer at Canadore, 6 p.m.
	Sault at Fanshawe, 6 p.m.
	La Cite at Fleming P, 6 p.m.
	Humber at ***Niagara***, 6 p.m.
	Algonquin at Trent, 6 p.m.
	Seneca at Cambrian, 7 p.m.

Sports

What's going on in the World of Sports

OCAA Standings

OCAA Basketball All-Star festivities

Upcoming games

'Stupid penalties' cost

Welland loses to Stoney Creek

By JEFF FORAN
Staff Writer

In a physical, seesaw battle, the Stoney Creek Warriors pulled out a 7-6 victory against the Welland Jr. Canadians, on a rainy Sunday night.

Having come out of the starting gates on the wrong foot during their last two previous home games, the Jr. Canadians were able to put that bad habit to bed, albeit very shortly.

Three minutes and 33 seconds into the match, Joe Aitken would put Welland in front with a breakaway shot.

The resulting goal woke the Warriors up, resulting in an onslaught of offence.

When the period drew to a close, Stoney Creek had lit up the Jr. Canadians for four goals.

Byron Elliott would score the first of two on the evening on a three-point night off a power play.

Elliott says it was a "lucky bounce" that he got the puck and was able to deke out Welland net minder Mike Pribanich.

A shot from the point by Stoney Creek defenceman Michael McGurk would be deflected into the net by Adam Ancona, who also scored two in the game.

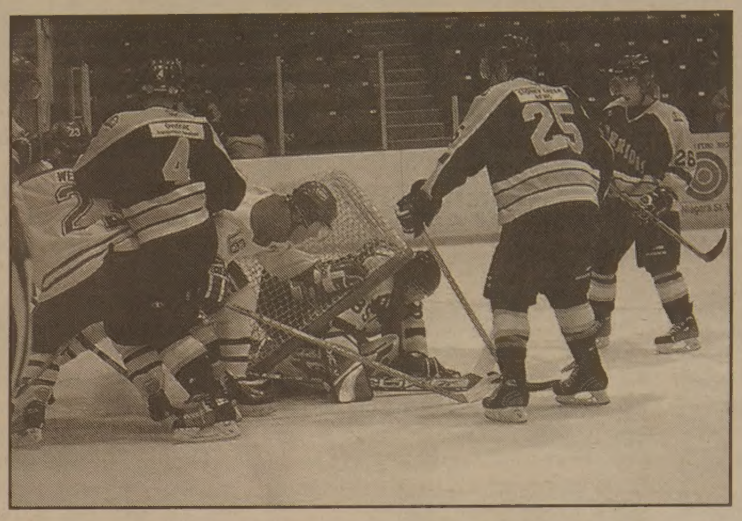
Scott Shimmell and Eric Vos, who would score on the power play with 49.7 seconds left in the first, would see the Warriors take a 4-1 lead at the break.

Welland goaltender Mike Pribanich would be relieved of his duties after the first 20 minutes and have a front-row seat from the bench for the rest of the game.

Early in the second, Welland would kill off a two-man advantage and then a four-minute penalty taken by Jordy Atkinson for cross-checking and charging.

The Warriors' Ancona would take a hooking penalty at 7:14. It took only 13 seconds on the ensuing power play for the Jr. Canadians to get a goal from Brad McKenzie.

McKenzie's goal came courtesy of a bounce off the end-boards. He quickly deposited the puck into the bottom right of the net.



The net comes crashing down on Warriors' goaltender Zach Grasley during a scrum in the third period. Stoney Creek defeated the Welland Jr. Canadians 7-6 Sunday night in Welland.
Photo by Takahide Eguchi

It would be his first of a four-point night.

Less than two minutes later, Stoney Creek regained its three-goal lead on another Elliott goal.

Vos was in on a breakaway and Elliott says he "went to the open net."

The game switched momentum on a nasty elbow thrown by the Warriors' Mitch West on Jake Kisac, resulting in a five-minute major and a game misconduct for West as well as a ringing in Kisac's ears.

Welland's Atkinson would also receive two and 10 from the melee caused from the elbow.

With four on four, Cameron Sault would record his 20th goal of the season on a slap shot that went off Stoney Creek goaltender Zach Grasley.

Twenty seconds later, Welland came within a goal as McKenzie scored his second of the night on the power play.

Welland came out hard in the third and were rewarded 52 seconds into play, again on the power play, as Jordy McMillan would tie the game.

Hopes of a come-from-behind win plummeted when Jason Pavao reclaimed the lead for the Warriors on a wrist shot that found the top shelf of the Welland goal.

Five minutes later, Stoney Creek scored again, with another goal from Ancona, who paid for it with a cross-check from behind into the boards.

With Agostino pulled, Jesse Bedard would put in a backhander with 50 seconds left to give the home team hope.

The push at the end was too late. Warriors pulled out a hard-fought road victory.

McKenzie says his four-point night "would have been better with a win."

"We took a couple of stupid penalties."

In the second period, he says they came out with "a lot of aggression" and "put the puck on the net."

"I thought we had them the whole game. We were all over them."

He says if they had come out "more disciplined, the game would have been different."

Elliott says it was a "big win" for the Warriors. "We knew they were struggling."

On his two-goal, one-assist, first star of the game performance, he says he was "kinda mad they didn't give me a second assist."

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Golf team honoured tonight

Niagara College President Dan Patterson will make a special presentation at tonight's men's basketball game to the college's golf team. In October, the college's golf team – which included Andrew Walpole, Stephen Grano, John Holmes, Andrew Egerter, Mike Mottola and coach Frank Campanelli – won national honours.

The college's women's basketball team plays at 6 p.m. followed by the men's game at 8 p.m. The presentation will be made at half time of the men's game at the college's gym at the Mackenzie building.

The golf team won gold at the Ping Canadian Colleges Athletic Association Golf Open Nationals in Windsor in late October.

The last Niagara College team crowned national champions was the 1996 women's badminton team.

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B.C. author experiences it all

By LESLEY KERR
Staff Writer

Things To Do List: Get married, have three kids, adopt one, get divorced, own two businesses, make two films, write and publish six books, own and maintain a house as a landlord, live in and own another, welcome two grandchildren into the world, run for a nomination as a federal NDP candidate and specialize in First Nations Community development.

Panic!

Sylvia Olsen, at 50 years old, has done all that and more. By way of explaining her success, Olsen says she never planned on becoming an author, but now has six books published.

She throws her hand to the side, palm up, saying, "I went away to a writing workshop for six days. It could have been anything: painting, sculpting. It was just my time to get away."

On the last day of the workshop, her instructor picked people to read their stories.

Olsen read one of her pieces. Self-critiquing, Olsen laughs, "It was just so much more lame than what the other people had written."

"The instructor says, 'Read that again. You got it. See what you guys just heard there? That's it.'"

"This is what the instructor says to me, this really famous author."

Olsen, throwing her hands onto her knees with a surprised smile, recalls, "I said, 'Oh, my goodness.'"

"See, what's happing here is these people at this workshop were trying and trying to write and I know nothing about writing. Nothing," she emphasizes.

The piece she wrote was about a man who was head of a history department.

"This big dude. This real somebody — or thinks he's a real somebody — sat next to me at a workshop once.

"He's this big, tall, handsome guy, really good looking and about 15 years older than me. Lots of money. Lots of prestige.

"He is sitting in this chair taking up all this room," she says as she mimics him putting her elbow on the back of the chair and stretching her opposite leg away from the other.

Olsen says, laughing at the memory of him, "His legs were apart and all. I just wanted to punch him, but he had these green cords on. Honestly, the best cords in the world come from Portugal. They were almost that nice."

"So I'm sitting next to this man, looking at his green cords and, honestly, I had to sit on my hands. I wanted to touch them so darn much."

"These pants were just to die for pants, and I wanted to caress his legs. I sat there the whole time. I don't know what it was, but trying to keep myself from touching him."

"So, when I wrote about this man, my instructor says, 'Oh, my goodness, that's so good!'"

When she started writing she thought she could do it and it would be fun, but she still doesn't see herself as a writer.

Her first book, No Time to Say Goodbye, was followed by Girl With a Baby, Catching Spring, White Girl, Yellow Line and Yetsa's Sweater. Most of her books have plots with a native background. She says her upbringing is what most influences her writing.

"It raised me to be intellectual."

"I was raised to think, so my writing relies heavily on that."

"Not imagination (I have a rotten imagination) but I happen to be a writer. It's all about being able to think."

"My ability to write is about my ability to create. That's not imagination."

She says it's more structured.

"It's about the theory of stories, race and relationships."

Olsen says she was raised in a strict religious culture that did not encourage reading, writing, watching TV or any of that.

She wants people who have read her book to go "Huh," in an intrigued manner. "If I've done that, that's all I want."

Olsen says writing is not work to her; it's entertainment. In fact, she writes almost every morning from 4 a.m. to 7 a.m.

She adds she doesn't get writer's block. If she doesn't get anything in her head, she just doesn't write.

"If it's not coming, I'm not writing."

In her earlier years, Olsen ran two of her own businesses: MT Newton Gardens, making hanging baskets, and knitting Cowichan sweaters. She has made two films, Kupper Island: A Time for Healing and A Story of West Coast Sailor Knitting.

Olsen works in the large field of First Nations community development, but specializes as a supervisor for on-reserve housing.

This past year Olsen ran for a federal nomination as a New Democratic Party candidate. She didn't win, but said the experience was "awesome."

Olsen lives on the T-Starlip reserve in Brentwood, B.C., and has four grown children, two grandchildren, an extended family of three grown stepchildren and her partner, Tom Kerr. Panic over!

My goodness or my goddess? Not sure?

Sylvia Olsen, with her daughters Joni and Heather Olsen, celebrates her birthday at her home in Brentwood, B.C.

Photo by Lesley Kerr

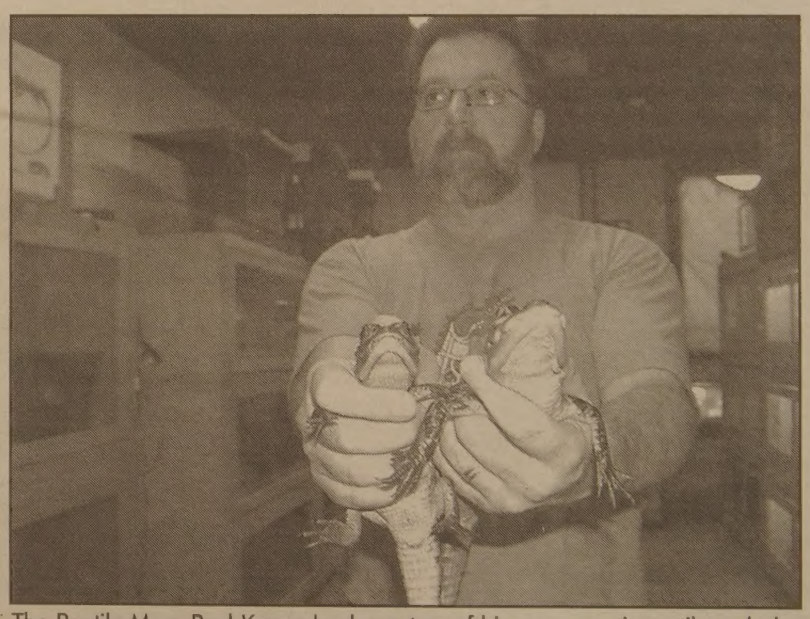
Reptile store home to over 1,000 different species

By AMANDA STREET
Staff Writer

Handfeeding a crocodilian might seem crazy to some, but for "the Reptile Man," Paul Kennedy, it's no big deal.

Kennedy owns The Reptile Store at 467 King St. E. in Hamilton, Ont. The store owns over 1,000 reptiles, including an American alligator, a caiman (crocodilian), pythons, boas and many other reptiles.

He says his interest in reptiles started when he was young. His first reptile was an iguana that his parents bought him. He wanted a snake but his father was afraid of them. When he moved out on his own, he bought a corn snake. He says his limit was supposed to be one snake and now he owns about 1,000 reptiles.



The Reptile Man, Paul Kennedy, shows two of his many exotic reptiles a baby alligator and caiman.

Photo by Amanda Street

His interest in reptiles started as a hobby, but he pushed to his interest to the "nth degree," as he does with any hobby. He has been doing educational reptiles shows for the past 15 years and has been with the store for the last six, making reptiles a full-time job.

The store holds live reptile shows with an educational focus. Staff bring out the reptiles and explain them. They do in-store as well as out-of-store shows.

If you want something different for your child's birthday party, the staff do parties that include pizza, cake and drinks, along with a reptile show. For a party of 15, the cost is $150 plus tax and the price goes up as more people are added. There are extras you can add to the package, such as a feeding with Bubba, the caiman.

Kennedy says they do between three and seven shows on Saturdays as it is rare to have only two, but "a perfect Saturday" would be 17 shows.

In a month he will do 30 to 40 shows personally, but he has some employees who can also do shows.

The venues for the out-of-store shows range from schools to old-age homes.

He says that although neither he nor his employees have any academic qualifications relating to reptile care, they are all "very well versed on animals."

"I have an amazing staff, the best of the best."

Wondering if you should be owning an alligator of your own? Kennedy wouldn't recommend it. He deals with breeders in the area as well as small zoos to obtain his animals.

He has had Bubba since he was about a foot and a half long; he's about four feet long today. He occasionally handfeeds the caiman and has been fortunate never to have been bitten by him.

He has, however, been bitten by numerous other reptiles, but considers all bites to be his fault, because he wasn't paying attention to the reptile's behaviour. "If you know the animal's behaviour, you can get away with it."

Not a lot of people know how to read that. A wagging tail on a dog means the dog is happy, but you don't want to run into a caiman with a wagging tail. When a caiman wags his tail, Kennedy says, it means, "I want to bite you."

Asked which reptile is his favourite, he says "alive," but if he has to elaborate he would say Oscar, a black and white Tegu, as well as Bubba, and Georgette and Bentley, two box turtles.

Besides doing shows, the animals have achieved some fame of their own. A South American Indigo snake named SIM (short for snake in movie) was in the film 3 Days, which was shot in Hamilton. Kennedy has been on the J.R. Diggs show "at least" five times and has been in mini-movies, including a small scene in a movie called Cops, in which he played a henchman passing a snake to the villainess.

Kennedy says he was "very fortunate" to be able to appear on the Red Green Show, before it was cancelled, and show his animals.

The most famous of his animals is Popcorn, a 14-foot Albino Burmese Python. Two years ago Kennedy received a call asking if he rents snakes. His reply was it depends. The person on the other end then asked if Alice Cooper, the musician, could rent a snake for his upcoming show.

For the last two years, Cooper has rented Popcorn for use in shows close by. "He is a very generous and nice person," says Kennedy.

Being surrounded by over a 1,000 reptiles and snakes is all in a day's work for Kennedy.

For more information visit http://www.thereptilestore.com.

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Festivals attract people to town

By TAKAHIDE EGUCHI
Staff Writer

Festivals brighten up a town.

The 11th Niagara Icewine Festival was held from Jan. 13 to Jan. 22 in the Niagara region. Various events were held, such as the Images of Winter Icewine Evening at the Sheraton on the Falls Hotel in Niagara Falls, the Twenty Valley Icewine Bar in Jordan Village and 4th annual ice sculpture competition in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Along with these events, people enjoyed tasting icewine in a tent in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Jan. 21.

Garbed in historic costume, announcing the opening of the festival, Mark Molnar, 43, official town crier for St. Catharines, says he loves his job and it is the "best job in the world."

He has met media people from all over the world.

The festival is "fantastic," he says, pointing out that his impression is that it is good for business because it is a "prime" tourist season.

Elizabeth Lillie, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, has owned a clothing shop in town for six years.

She emphasizes the festival affects her business "wonderfully. So many people come from so many different places" to provide business in this "very quiet" season.

Lillie says it is not only good for business but also it is a chance to "renew" her friends and acquaintances.

As a shop owner, she saw "lots of" changes in town.

As long as people provide the same "hospitality that we've always conveyed here, then it can only grow more attractive," says Lillie.

Talking about Film Festival Series '06, another festival, which was launched this year, she says it is "well promoted and well looked forward to," emphasizing that anything that has a cultural aspect draws people out.

Joan (who did not give her last name), of Niagara-on-the-Lake, an employee at a store in town, says the Icewine Festival draws people into the lakeside village, and this increase in business traffic will benefit the stores.

She says the store is "a little bit busier" overall, mentioning her "business" does not start till afternoon.

Doug Forsythe, 56, an artist, has been a gallery owner since 1984.

"Anything like that helps," says Forsythe, adding he has seen a "big increase" in the number of customers compared with last year.

Recalling a similar theatre event held "years ago," which he found "very good," Forsythe, of Wolfville, N. S., says the Film Festival Series '06 is a "great" idea.

He says the town's tourism dynamics change every year.

Michelle Lewis, of Niagara-on-the-Lake, opened her antique store this January.

She says the Icewine Festival "always" brings lots of new and repeat customers to the street.

She says she hasn't been able to take advantage of the Film Festival Series '06.

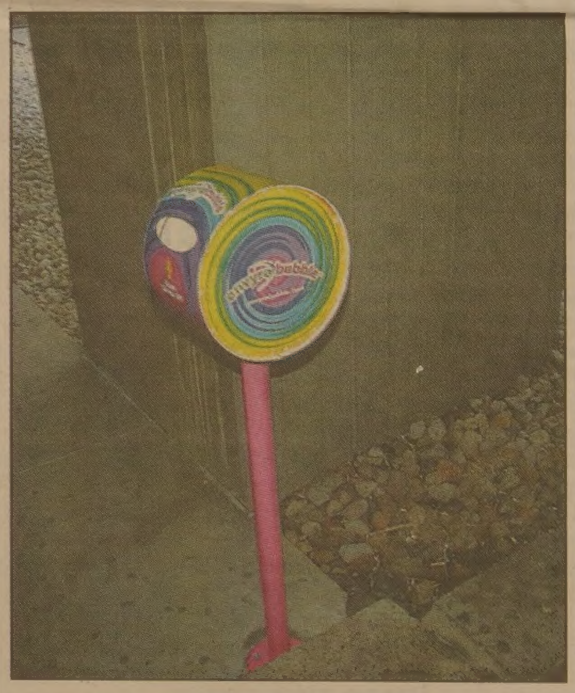
Won Yoo, 58, originally from Korea, moved to Niagara-on-the-Lake in 1998.

He says what's good about the Icewine Festival is that more people come and learn something about the history of the town.

Over the years, Yoo says he sees the growth of wineries, which are a "big portion" of the business in town, but it is hard to judge how much. He says since his store "calms down" around this time of the year, but the festival is "good for everybody in this town."

Elizabeth Lillie, a clothes shop owner in Niagara-on-the-Lake, says she welcomed tourists from Kelowna, B.C., and Saskatchewan among other places.
Photo by Takahide Eguchi

Put your gum here



Envyrobubble, a disposal unit made especially for gum, has popped up on the Brock University campus. Envyrobubble was developed by a Canadian company and has already appeared on the streets of Toronto. The small opening allows for only gum to be disposed of and not other garbage.
Photo by Elisabeth Bailey

Healthy lifestyle promoted to everyone at college

It's started.

Active Living Challenge Week in Ontario has begun.

The week is aimed at promoting a healthy lifestyle.

A special draw is free and open to all students and staff at Niagara College.

Ballots are available at the college's Athletic Department in the Mackenzie building.

Students can also register at http://www.activelivingrewards.ca.

Making connections for future

By LESLEY KERR
Staff Writer

As you look around you here, you'll see your future co-workers, bosses and competitors, so it's a good time to start networking.

Rob Renna, a second-year student in the Culinary Management (Co-op) program, has realized this and is making connections now.

"If you look at it, we are in college for a reason. We all want to go on to bigger and better things. We want to progress into a career where we're making money in a business, so why not apply those wants to college? Start your career now, make contacts now, because the people in college are going to be the career people in the future."

Renna and fellow student Mike Porteous are organizing a formal event here for which everyone can dress up and come out for a good time. They are calling it Winter in the Vineyard. It starts at 9 p.m. running till 2 a.m. on Feb. 9. Tickets cost $25 in advance or $35 at the door.

The formal evening will have live entertainment, lots of food and various drink selections.

The two students started to hash out ideas for the event about two months ago.

"We didn't get Student Administrative Council's (SAC) approval till about a month ago," says Renna 24,

"We're reaching the ticket sales marketing stage now and finalizing all of our sponsors."

Renna says he "got lucky and actually stumbled upon" a lot of the sponsors.

"When we were looking for our band and our DJ, we were talking to the owner of the Martini Bar in St. Catharines, who we thought was a waiter. He then decided to sponsor us with the martinis, as well as helping us out with some of the graphic designs.

"We might have stumbled upon some of our sponsors, but some that we had in mind didn't come through, so it seemed to work itself out."

"It's been an interesting ride."

Porteous and Renna started a firm in marketing and event planning.

"We deal with catering, small events to large events."

"We can tailor our services to your needs, meaning what you need is how much are you willing to spend.

"This is a way for us to make contacts in the community, other business people and the students."

"Look around at everyone in this room. These are the people who will be in kitchens in the future, running hotels in the future and owning restaurants in the future. It's important to get these connections now."

"The longer you know these people, the more they will be willing to help you out."

Renna has already started to make connections outside the college.

He says, for the event, the Renaissance Fallsview Hotel, in Niagara Falls, is handling the catering, the Winter Green Financials company is donating the flowers and the Martini Bar is bringing the martini bar.

"Now we're down to two weeks and it's crunch time. We're trying to put together something that we want to be the highest calibre, and I demand that. Our budget was a little put out because of the band and DJ, but it's the best band and DJ in St. Catharines."

Jazz band New World Sun will play at the event.

"They're phenomenal." They also play every Tuesday at On 81 in St. Catharines.

"The great thing with the student demographic is finding that charity event within the school. People are then more willing to donate because they know this is direct marketing for them. They know their name will be on a sign saying they [the company] helped out."

Renna adds the student demographic is the hardest to break through because in college there are so many different groups of people.

"So if you can bring them together and find something that they all can love, then you're way ahead in your marketing."

"Everyone likes food. That's a given now. It's about what atmosphere is used to present the food and what drinks are used to complement the food.

"People like to party like a rock star. That's what they all want."

Renna says this event is promoting that lifestyle with its formal agenda.

He hopes that the college recognizes that this is a group making a positive change within the college.

Renna says he hopes the sponsors involved refer him for other events, but mostly he hopes the event gives the first-year students in culinary arts a chance to meet with people in the trade who sponsored the event for co-op reasons.

"There are many other assets in the organized event that can help students."

His advice? "It's very much a networking event and try just to have fun."